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Iran shows off its 'resolve and might'

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All in the family for Oldershaws

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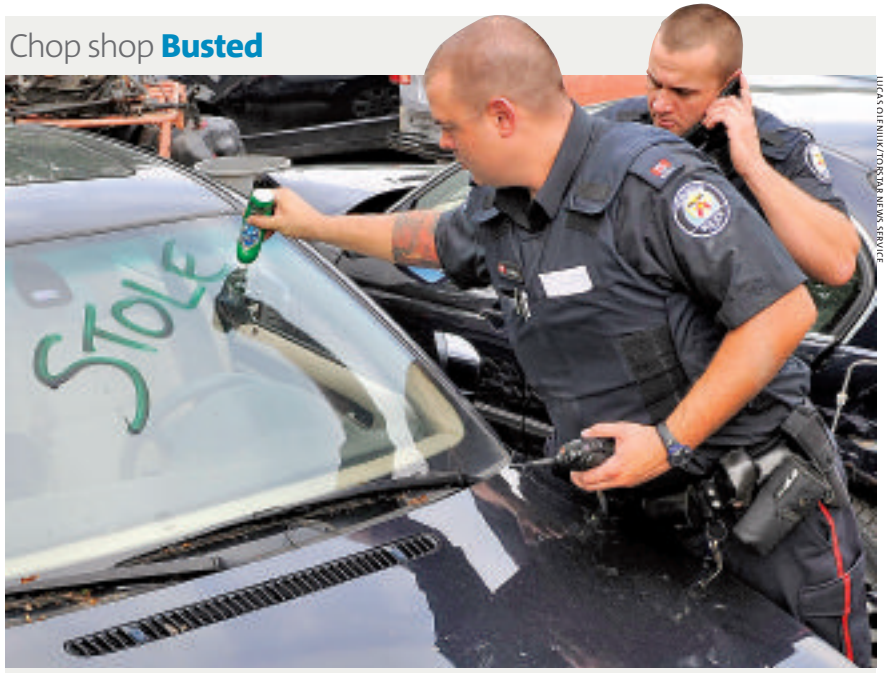

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Const. Mike Wilson, front, and Const. Paul Askin tag one of the vehicles as "stolen" yesterday after the officers discovered a number of stolen vehicles at a chop shop at 92 Crockford Blvd. Story, page 3.

New 'green' fees for TVs, computers

Ontario is slapping fees onto new TVs and computers to increase recycling of electronics in the first phase of a program that will eventually see similar fees apply to nearly all other electronic products.

Program begins April 1, 2009

Producers and importers will have to start paying the fees, including $10 for TVs and $2 to $13 for computers, beginning April 1, 2009. Whether the cost of the fees is passed on to consumers, and for how long, remains to be seen.

Today, Environment Minister John Gerretsen is signing a regulation that puts in place a recycling program, including per item fees, for all televisions and computers sold in Ontario.

The fees will go to an arm's length organization established by Waste Diversion Ontario and will be used to fund the collection and recycling of the products from hundreds of dropoff locations to be established across the province over five years.

The program for TVs and computers is just the beginning of the province's plans. Waste Diversion Ontario, which creates and runs recycling programs for the province, will today begin drafting the next phase of electronics recycling in Ontario. By next summer, the agency will put forward a plan to recycle nearly all other electronic products, including telephones, BlackBerry devices, cameras, photocopiers, DVD players and stereo equipment.

The ultimate purpose of adding recycling fees is to force manufacturers to create more environmentally-friendly products. Under the program, the fees, which are expected to total $62 million in the first year, could drop in future years if the cost to recycle the products decreases because manufacturers have removed lead or mercury components, for example.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family urges halt to road rage incidents

PLEA The family of a Milton man killed in an alleged road rage incident made a tearful plea yesterday for aggressive drivers to stop acting irrationally behind the wheel.

"Please, it has to stop," said Gina Mancini, the victim's sister-in-law, outside Milton court where the man charged in 55-year-old Tony Greco's death made a brief court appearance yesterday.

"We have children on the roads every day, there is absolutely no need for this," she said through tears. "If justice is (done) the law will do the right thing for Tony Greco."

Wayne Winsor, 39, faces charges of criminal negligence causing death, dangerous driving causing death and failing to remain at the scene of an accident causing death.

He was released on $25,000 bail, told he couldn't drive a vehicle or even sit in the driver's seat of one.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Premier promotes provincial wines

ONTARIO Premier Dalton McGuinty says he's open to ways to promote Ontario wineries better, even as he remains reluctant to consider beer and wine sales in corner stores.

"Buy Ontario wines. We have come a long, long way," McGuinty said yesterday before cabinet met.

"One of the things that I'd encourage the LCBO to do is to understand through their product promotion and product placement within their stores ... that selling a bottle of Ontario wine is different from selling a bottle of wine from anyplace else," the premier said.

"When you sell an Ontario wine, you're helping with Ontario jobs."

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BEAUTY *at the Bay*

Dirt bike rider succumbs to injuries
A man hurt in an Oakville dirt bike accident early Saturday has died of his injuries. The 20-year-old slammed into a cement barrier in the Oaks Trails and Hillmount Drive area of Oakville. The victim's name is not being released at the family's request. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Spadina subway extension

Premier Dalton McGuinty says something "gummed up" expected movement on the Spadina subway extension in Toronto. McGuinty says he had expected shovels in the ground this week. The premier would not say exactly what went wrong. The multi-billion-dollar project would see the subway line extended past York University into York Region. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gardiner price tag at $360M

The teardown of the Gardiner Expressway could cost as much as $360 million if the Richmond and Adelaide ramps to the Don Valley Parkway are widened, new documents suggest.

In a November 2007 memo, obtained by the Toronto Star under a freedom of information request, city officials outlined three options for the future of the elevated expressway — removing east of Jarvis Street, removing only the central section between Simcoe and Jarvis streets plus building the Front Street extension, or modifying the York-Bay-Yonge eastbound spiral ramp.

The first option, which the mayor and Waterfront Toronto (the agency in charge of the waterfront) are now touting, includes replacing the Gardiner with an eight-lane boulevard at a cost of $360 million, the memo says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Increased cost

Since plans for the dismantling were announced in late May, officials have said it would cost $200 million to $300 million. The increased $60 million cost is linked to redoing the Richmond-Adelaide ramps to and from the DVP.

Sunnyside Beach **Not so sunny aftermath**

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Todd Haughton, foreground, and Doug Stratten help with the cleanup yesterday at Sunnyside Beach following Tuesday night's storm. After the 50-year-old sewage system failed, temporary fences have been erected in the area around Lakeshore Boulevard West and Parkside Drive to keep the public out while workers ensure the playgrounds and beach areas are safe.

Sweep nets eight stolen vehicles

A morning sweep on chop shops in east Toronto yesterday morning turned up eight stolen vehicles and resulted in three arrests, police said.

Municipal crews and Toronto police targeted six auto body shops on Crockford Boulevard (near Warden Avenue and Lawrence Avenue East) after receiving complaints from area residents and businesses about scrap parts and other junk scattered throughout the area, including on the road and sidewalk, said Staff Sgt. Wade Alphonso.

Initially, they were investigating zoning offences as the area isn't zoned for auto repair. During the operation, police began processing the cars' vehicle identification numbers.

"Thirty days ago, we sent notices around (to these shops) asking them to comply and clean up. The interesting thing is they didn't take it seriously," said Coun. Michael Thompson.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Three arrested

Police painted "stolen" on the windshield of eight vehicles at 92 Crockford Blvd. and the shop's two owners and its operator were charged with possession of stolen property.

Project Betrayal

Crime ring posed as cops: Police

CHARGES A ring of Toronto-area organized criminals — including a local Hells Angel biker — impersonated police officers while committing a string of armed robberies, police say. Project Betrayal, a nine-month police operation, ended with 198 criminal charges laid against 25 people after a crime spree across the regions of York, Peel, Toronto and the Golden Horseshoe.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Court

Ex-jail guard sent to prison

CRIME A judge made it clear he had no patience for the crimes of a former Toronto jail guard and volunteer soccer coach who implored a woman to sexually abuse her grandchildren in front of a webcam.

Ontario Superior Court Justice David McCombs handed Matthew Hughes a 15-month sentence for the possession and distribution of child pornography, charges to which he pleaded guilty in March.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SHOOTING One man is dead and another was in hospital last night after a double shooting in the city's east end. Police say the shootings occurred in the rear parking lot of a two-storey townhouse complex on Victoria Park Avenue near Greylawn Crescent just after 7 p.m. yesterday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man guilty of sexually assaulting minor

A judge has found Melvin MacNeil, 65, guilty of sexual assault and sexual exploitation of a girl who was 7 years old when the assaults began. The young victim testified she was told to "keep the events a secret," Justice Kathleen Caldwell said yesterday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rail talk back on track

Plans for airport link showing signs of life again

InTransit

Ed Drass
transit@eddrass.com

It seems there's a lot of embarrassment that the GTA does not have a dedicated rail link to its main airport, as other world cities do. Train service between Pearson Airport and downtown Toronto has long appealed because in principle it's a good idea. However, wounded civic pride does not guarantee smart planning.

The way the federal government first handled the file in the 1990s — such as avoiding an open tendering process and failing to make public crucial documents in a timely fashion — may have had as much to do with being too eager to protect the scheme and get it moving than an outright attempt at secrecy. That's the charitable view, anyway.

After running smack into strong resistance in the Weston community, located part way along the proposed route, the project appeared to just stall about two years ago.

Although some of the opposition was simply to stop any change in the area, the resultant scrutiny did help shed light on serious design flaws.

Back when the project was know as "Blue-22," it involved operating refurbished railcars directly between Union Station and Pearson, at a price less than an equivalent taxi ride, but a lot more than GO or TTC fares covering the same territory.

The basic plan was to have the private sector run these mini-trains — with fares covering not only the profit but supposedly eliminating the need for government subsidy.

The concept was accompanied by mega-dollars to

"Wounded civic pride does not guarantee smart planning."

upgrade the adjacent rail line and thereby seriously improve commuter service in the northwest part of the GTA.

This money — from federal and provincial taxpayers — is welcome, but there was never a commitment that people travelling from locations other than central Toronto would also get high-speed service to Pearson. That's a huge downside.

For about 20 months the rail link plan has been waiting for a go-ahead from the Ontario environment ministry, and many observers presumed it had died a quiet death.

Now it turns out the provincial government is negotiating with SNC-Lavalin, the Canadian engineering-construction firm associated with the original winning bid.

Because the process was conceived years ago, and because it's a public-private partnership, Queen's Park is apparently obliged to move this along separately from the upcoming Regional Transportation Plan, due to be presented by Metrolinx.

The GTA planning body is not expected to release its vision for the region's future transit network until September — it's being delayed another few months so that a workable financing plan can be unveiled at the same time.

Meanwhile we're left hoping the province will work out a separate airport link deal that appeases SNC-Lavalin, but doesn't leave us on the hook for a questionable standalone project that cannot mesh with the surrounding transport network.

Ed Drass has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA.

Nigerian woman's deportation delayed

A Nigerian who says she could get stoned to death as a bisexual if forced to return to her country has won a temporary reprieve from immigration officials.

Jane Okojie was to be deported today, but learned of the postponement yesterday from her lawyer. Instead, Okojie is to appear before immigration officials today. Her lawyer, Kingsley Jesuorobo, is hoping to stay the deportation proceedings while he asks the federal court to review her refugee claim.

Okojie came to Canada in 2003. She has two children, Samuel, 12, and Marvisd, 18 months. She fled her homeland with her son after being beaten and tortured because of her sexuality, she says.

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Model's father wants body returned

The father of a B.C. model who was killed in China says the family is trying to have her body returned to Canada. Diana O'Brien, 22, was found dead early Monday in Shanghai. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

U.S. deserter gets to stay

An American deserter who refused to redeploy to Iraq was granted a last-ditch reprieve from deportation yesterday when the Federal Court said he could stay in Canada while it decides whether to hear his case. Sgt. Corey Glass, who had already left his apartment and was set to return to the U.S. and possible jail time, was ecstatic. "It's great — this is great news," Glass said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wilmot **A hero's return**

LUKE HENDRY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The hearse carrying the body of Pte. Colin William Wilmot and its motorcade pass spectators along Repatriation Row, the section of Highway 2 dividing CFB Trenton, following Wilmot's repatriation ceremony yesterday. Wilmot was killed Saturday in Afghanistan.

News in **brief**

AIR SAFETY Collisions between small airplanes will happen in the sky around Toronto unless measures are taken to better design the airspace and equip small planes, a report released yesterday by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada warns. The report recommended Transport Canada take steps to reduce the risk of collisions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OTTAWA Canadian officials knew in 2004 that a Canadian teen being held at a U.S. military base in Cuba was deprived of sleep for weeks to soften him up for interrogation, documents say. Department of Foreign Affairs reports say Jim Gould visited Omar Khadr in Guantanamo Bay and was told by the U.S. military that steps were taken to make the then-17-year-old more pliable for interviews. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario lobbies PM to support Pan Am bid

Winning the 2015 games would give the province its first major sporting event since the 1930s.

Premier Dalton McGuinty says he is aggressively lobbying the prime minister to get behind a $1.77 billion bid for Toronto to host the Pan Am Games, as agitated bid backers say it's "very urgent" a decision is made soon.

McGuinty disclosed yesterday that he is aggressively lobbying Stephen Harper to support the bid.

"I spoke to the prime minister directly about this and asked him where the feds are going to land on our bid for the Pan Am Games," the premier said.

"I know he's on it. He's engaged. But we're going to need a decision pretty soon," he said.

> **"We need to do some soft lobbying of decision-makers."**
> COC's Chris Rudge

Noting they had a "positive" conversation last month, McGuinty said Harper "seemed quite receptive to the idea."

"It's very urgent" that a decision be made before the Olympic Games begin in Beijing next month, said the Canadian Olympic Committee's chief executive officer Chris Rudge.

"We need to do some soft lobbying of decision-makers (from the Pan American Sports Organization) in Beijing. We're already working on tentative plans for a reception of some kind."

Rudge wouldn't comment on a report that COC president Michael Chambers had written to Harper seeking a commitment on federal funding.

If the prime minister buys into the plan, the premier is prepared to make a short visit to the Beijing Olympics to push the bid to international sports officials.

Open to countries in the Americas, the Pan Am Games are held every four years. The last was in Rio de Janeiro in 2007, and the next will be in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2011. The site of the 2015 Games will be announced next year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Young adults skip sunscreen

Cancer society polls our sun habits

A Canadian Cancer Society survey released today finds many youths aren't using sun protection.

A cross-country snapshot by the Canadian Cancer Society finds that on a typical summer day, about 28 per cent of adults spend at least two hours in the sun.

Young adults — those aged 16 to 24 — are soaking up the most rays, but are least likely to don a hat, slather on sunscreen or otherwise protect themselves from overexposure, according to the survey results.

Forty-seven per cent of young men in that age group, and 32 per cent of their female counterparts, report getting at least two hours of sunshine. Almost half of young women are actively trying to get a tan, along with 28 per cent of young men, the survey suggests.

The results are based on telephone interviews with more than 7,000 Canadians conducted from August to November 2006.

> **"We were quite happy to see that parents are getting the message."**
> Heather Chappell

"We were quite happy to see that parents are getting the message and they're protecting their young children very well — ages one to five. So that was great to see, and older adults as well," said Heather Chappell, senior manager of Cancer Control Policy for the society.

But she described statistics on the sun protection behaviours of young adults as "particularly alarming."

Only 42 per cent of young men and 58 per cent of young women protect themselves from overexposure to the sun, the study found. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air India bombing convict gets bail

TERRORISM The only man ever convicted in the Air India bombings was granted bail by a B.C. appeal court yesterday, but that hasn't made him a free man.

Inderjit Singh Reyat remained behind bars, waiting for his representatives to post a hefty surety and give the court assurances that he can meet strict bail conditions.

It was happy news for Reyat's wife and some others on the suburban street where the family lives, but another blow for the families of those killed in the bombings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inderjit Singh Reyat

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Length of Promotional Credit Plan	'Equal monthly payments with interest' offers:		All other promotional credit offers:	
	Minimum purchase (before tax)	Fee	Minimum purchase (before tax)	Fee
4-7 months	N/A	N/A	$249.00	$39.99
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15-29 months	$299.00	$49.99	$299.00	$99.99
30-44 months	$299.00	$69.99	$999.00	$129.99
45+ months	$299.00	$99.99	$2999.00	$149.99

Environmental company owner claims support offer in Liberal suit
Green Shift Inc. owner Jennifer Wright, who is suing the Liberal party for $8.7 million over use of the company's name, says she's received offers of financial support for her legal battle from Conservatives. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Beer Store status opposed

Petitioner says 'anger is out there' about chain's monopoly

Derek Forward has got more than 3,000 people to sign his petition.

A petition calling on the province to end The Beer Store monopoly has attracted 3,000 signatures, proof that Ontarians want change, says Derek Forward, the self-described "average citizen" who started the grassroots movement.

"If Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty doesn't think people want change, I can just direct him to the comments on my petition. The anger is out there," Forward, a 49-year-old machinery broker from Burlington, said yesterday.

McGuinty said this week The Beer Store "ain't broke" and he sees no reason to fix it, especially because Ontario residents haven't been complaining to him.

"No, I like the system as it's found at present," McGuinty said Tuesday. "I don't think consumers would tell us that (they don't like the status quo). Certainly, Ontarians are not delivering that kind of a message to me."

Suds aplenty

The Beer Store controls 80 per cent of Ontario's $2.9 billion beer market.

But Forward said he's getting a clear message that people want change.

"I've collected 3,000 signatures in 48 hours. I've been in marketing. If that represents even 1 per cent of the people who are angry, that's 300,000 people," Forward said.

Forward said he launched the online petition at *ipetitions.com/petition/nobeerstore* after reading a three-day series about The Beer Store in the Toronto Star last weekend.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harper's G8 performance 'appalling:' Dion

POLITICS Prime Minister Stephen Harper presented an "appalling" image of Canada and the environment at this week's G8 summit in Japan, says Stéphane Dion. The Liberal leader told a town-hall meeting in Mississauga yesterday that he was disturbed to hear how Harper had reportedly pushed for less ambitious goals on lowering greenhouse gases at the summit.

"What he did at the G8 in the last two days was appalling," Dion told the Mississauga crowd.

COLIN O'CONNOR/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stéphane Dion at a town-hall meeting in Mississauga yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

ABUSE More than 3,000 people have applied to the federal program to settle abuse claims arising from the Indian residential-schools era. Applications for the first 10 months already exceeds expected yearly claims. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COURT A remote-control device seized from the home of Momin Khawaja was working and was capable of triggering a homemade bomb, says an RCMP expert.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Fat guys, poor sperm

Researchers in Scotland have found yet another reason for men to avoid becoming overweight. Besides the usual bogeymen such as heart disease, high blood pressure and the like, add lower quality sperm. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Obama regrets interview

Don't expect to see more of Barack Obama's young daughters on television any time soon. The Democratic presidential candidate and his wife, Michelle, allowed Access Hollywood to interview their daughters, Malia and Sasha, as Malia celebrated her 10th birthday. Yesterday, Obama said he had second thoughts after seeing how much attention the interview received. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Invisible skin set Ramsey family free

CRIME Crime scene DNA is typically recovered from blood or semen stains, but the DNA that exonerated members of JonBenet Ramsey's family came from invisible skin cells.

This so-called "touch DNA" is left behind when people touch things, because they naturally shed skin cells that contain the genetic material.

In this case, the new DNA was recovered by guessing where JonBenet's killer might have handled the long johns she was wearing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

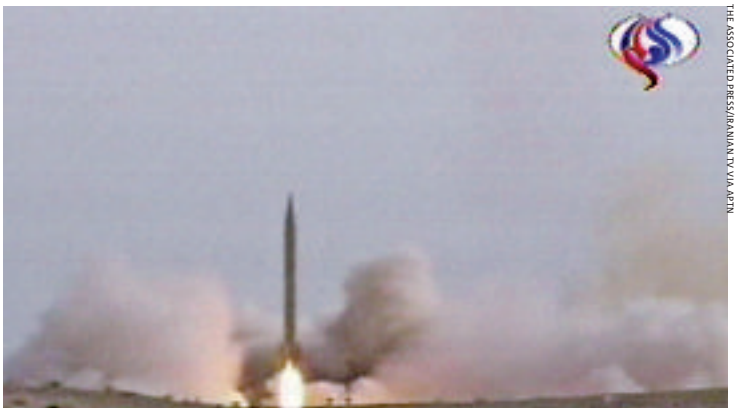
Woman awarded $14k for bad heel

LEGAL A British court awarded a woman $14,400 for injuries she received when her stiletto heel snapped off. The court in Manchester ordered a store called Dolcis to pay the damages to Sophie King, whose ankle still swells three years after an operation for injuries in the mishap. King told court she was wearing the black strappy shoes for the first time when the heel snapped. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran launches missile tests

President threatens retaliation if attacked by U.S., Israel

Iran test-fired long- and medium-range missiles yesterday during war games that officials say are in response to U.S. and Israeli threats.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/IRANIAN TV VIA APTN

This image from Iranian Television shows a Shahab-3 missile being launched, which officials have said has a range of 2,000 kilometres and is armed with a one-ton conventional warhead.

Iran test-fired nine long- and medium-range missiles yesterday during war games that one official said demonstrated Tehran's "resolve and might" if forced to retaliate against any U.S. or Israeli attack, state television reported.

The military exercise was being conducted at the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway at the mouth of the Persian Gulf through which about 40 per cent of the world's oil passes.

Iran has threatened to shut down traffic in the strait if attacked. It was not clear, however, whether the missile test also took place near the strait.

Gen. Hossein Salami, the air force commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, said the exercise would "demonstrate our resolve and might against enemies who in recent weeks have threatened Iran with harsh language," the TV report said.

Footage showed at least six missiles firing simultaneously, and said the barrage included a new version of the Shahab-3 missile, which officials have said has a range of 2,000 kilometres and is armed with a one-ton conventional warhead. The television report did not specify where the launch took place.

That would put Israel, Turkey, the Arabian peninsula, Afghanistan and Pakistan within striking distance.

"Our hands are always on the trigger and our missiles are ready for launch," the official IRNA news agency quoted Salami as saying yesterday.

In range

The Shahab-3 missile fired from Iran could reach Israel, Turkey, the Arabian peninsula, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The report comes less than a day after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad dismissed fears that Israel and the United States could be preparing to attack his country, calling the possibility a "funny joke."

"I assure you that there won't be any war in the future," Ahmadinejad said Tuesday.

But even as Ahmadinejad and other Iranian officials have dismissed the possibility of attack, Tehran has stepped up its warnings of retaliation if the Americans — or Israelis — launch military action. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

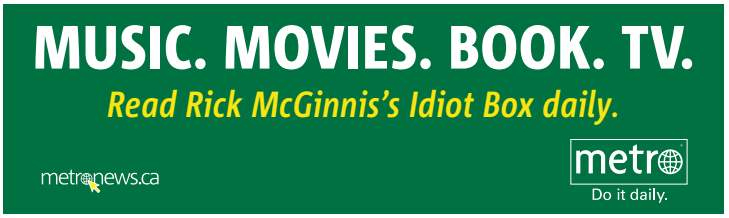
News in brief

GUN ATTACK Gunmen believed to be inspired by al-Qaeda stormed a guard post at the U.S. consulate in Istanbul yesterday, touching off a firefight that killed three police and three assailants. The gunmen emerged from a car and shot a traffic officer dead, then swarmed the guard quarters at the entrance to the consulate, where two policemen were killed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COURT A former prosecutor has been sentenced to two years in prison for having sex with boys after her 16-year-old daughter told the judge she and her mother had competed for the same 15-year-old boy. Beth Modica wept as her daughter, Danielle, told the judge she banged on the bathroom door at the family home in Sloatsburg, N.Y., one day last year as her mother and her boyfriend engaged in oral sex. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIRES Fire officials ordered 10,000 people in the Sierra Nevada foothills in California to flee ahead of a blaze. About wildfires that have charred 198,000 hectares over the past two weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL More than 200 flights at Dublin Airport were delayed, diverted or cancelled yesterday after air-traffic controllers deemed their radar system too malfunction-prone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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EKTORP sofa $539 was ~~$669~~. Simris blue only. 100% cotton. Removable, washable cover. W215×D88×H88cm. RA.

IKEA STOCKHOLM rug $299/ea was ~~$469~~/ea.
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GYLLEN wall lamp $24.99/ea was ~~$44.99~~/ea. Green/red or striped/multicolour. Handmade glass shade. Hang horizontally or vertically. Max 2×40W. W26×H56cm. RA.

FENJA RAND cushion cover
$7.99
was ~~$14.99~~

FENJA RAND cushion cover $7.99 was ~~$14.99~~. Dark red. 100% silk. L50×W50cm.

LINDVED shelving unit
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LINDVED shelving unit $39 was ~~$59~~. White. Powder-coated steel with tempered glass. W35×D35×H180cm. RA.

KVARTIL lantern $6.99 was ~~$10.99~~. Glass candleholder. Galvanized steel frame. Suitable for both tealight and household candle. Ø11×H27cm.

KNAPPA TULPAN floor lamp $49.99 was ~~$69.99~~. Steel/plastic. Grey/white. Max 60W. Ø43×H163cm. RA.

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Toyota engineer died of overwork, labour bureau rules

Toyota's lead engineer in developing a hybrid version of the Camry line died in January 2006 from working too many hours, a Japanese labour bureau has ruled. The 45-year-old man averaged more than 80 hours of overtime per month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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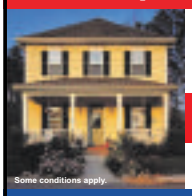

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Bell, Telus face txt msg protest

Rogers backs down on iPhone charges

Federal Industry minister Jim Prentice is calling the chiefs of Bell Mobility and Telus to a meeting to explain an "ill-thought out decision" to charge users 15 cents for incoming text messages.

45.3
million text messages are sent by Canadians each day, the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association says.

One of the chief concerns is that cellphone users, particularly the young, will be charged for spam text messages they receive.

Telus officials have been quoted as saying "phenomenal" growth in the popularity of text messages has put a strain on their networks, forcing them to start charging for the service. But industry observers question the explanation.

"Text messages are probably among the lowest bandwidth services that carriers provide today," said Carmi Levy, the senior vice-president of strategic consulting for AR Communications Inc.

The changes at Bell and Telus come as Rogers Communications came under pressure for the rate plans it will offer with Apple Inc.'s phone, scheduled to launch tomorrow in Canada.

Rogers bowed to pressure by consumers yesterday by offering a promotional data plan. Subscribers who sign up before Aug. 31 can purchase a 6GB data plan for $30 per month that will be available on all 3G devices. That includes the soon-to-be launched BlackBerry Bold.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Energy hits record in home budgets

ECONOMY Fuel prices have risen so much that energy is now consuming a record 7 per cent of Canadian household spending and "looks poised to continue heading higher," says Douglas Porter, Bank of Montreal's deputy chief economist. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ETHANOL Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday he was rethinking his commitment to increase the ethanol content in gasoline to 10 per cent by 2010, given the dubious environmental benefits of the biofuel and the impact on food prices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IPHONE FOR LESS Apple Inc.'s iPhone lands this week in Mexico, selling for less than half its planned U.S. price — the 8GB device for $75 US (AT&T's price is $199 in the U.S.). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada

Nissan, Renault eye electric car sales in Portugal
Nissan and Renault say they will sell electric vehicles in Portugal in 2011 and globally in 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe's top banker warns of inflation

PRICE SPIRAL European Central Bank president Jean-Claude Trichet warned yesterday that euro nations are already seeing the first signs of an inflation price spiral, calling on governments to take care not to grant wage hikes that could fuel further price rises.

The ECB's governing council "is strongly concerned that price and wage-setting behaviour could add to inflationary pressures," Trichet told the European Parliament. "First signs are already emerging in some regions of the euro area."

"First signs are already emerging in some regions of the euro area."
Jean-Claude Trichet

He said current inflation levels were "worrying" and warned they were set to stay high before cooling gradually next year.

He said indexation schemes in some EU nations that tie wages automatically to price rises were of "particular concern and should be avoided."

Yearly inflation in the 15 countries that share the euro spiked to an estimated 4 per cent in June, the fastest prices have accelerated in the 16 years of keeping records.

That prompted the ECB to hike borrowing costs last week for the first time in a year — to 4.25 per cent from 4 per cent — despite warnings from politicians who fear it will stifle investment and worsen Europe's slowdown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. homebuilders cut staff

HOUSING U.K. homebuilders Bovis Homes Group and Redrow PLC each said yesterday they were slashing staff by 40 per cent — more signs of the distress in Britain's dismal and deteriorating housing market.

One homebuilder after another has reported a sales slump as falling house prices, sagging consumer confidence and a restrictive mortgage market have bitten into demand.

Banks have stopped financing 100 per cent of the purchase price of a home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

AUTOMOTIVE French automaker Renault lowered its target for sales of cars and light trucks this year after first-half sales came in well below forecast. The group expects sales to rise between 5 per cent and 10 per cent instead of its earlier growth target of 10 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MLB

Washington Nationals outfielder Elijah Dukes underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee yesterday. He is expected to be sidelined four to six weeks. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sports

New derby champ coming

Vladimir Guerrero will not defend his title in the Home Run Derby during all-star week. The Los Angeles Angels slugger plans to spend the all-star break next week with his family after he didn't make the team as a starter or reserve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	55	35	.611	—
Boston	55	39	.585	2
N.Y. Yankees	49	42	.538	6½
Baltimore	44	45	.494	10½
TORONTO	**44**	**47**	**.484**	**11½**

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	52	37	.584	—
Minnesota	50	41	.549	3
Detroit	46	44	.511	6½
Kansas City	40	51	.440	13
Cleveland	37	53	.411	15½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	54	36	.600	—
Oakland	49	41	.544	5
Texas	47	44	.516	7½
Seattle	35	55	.389	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	48	43	.527	—
Florida	47	44	.516	1
N.Y. Mets	46	44	.511	1½
Atlanta	43	48	.473	5
Washington	35	57	.380	13½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	54	36	.600	—
St. Louis	51	40	.560	3½
Milwaukee	50	40	.556	4
Cincinnati	43	48	.473	11½
Pittsburgh	42	48	.467	12
Houston	42	50	.457	13

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	45	46	.495	—
L.A. Dodgers	44	46	.489	½
San Francisco	39	51	.433	5½
Colorado	38	53	.418	7
San Diego	36	56	.391	9½

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TORONTO 9 Baltimore 8
Boston 18 Minnesota 5
Detroit 8 Cleveland 6
N.Y. Yankees 2 Tampa Bay 1 (10 ings)
L.A. Angels at Texas
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City
Seattle at Oakland

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 5 San Diego 2
Houston 6 Pittsburgh 4
Washington 5 Arizona 0
St. Louis at Philadelphia
San Francisco at N.Y. Mets
Colorado at Milwaukee
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs
Atlanta at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota at Detroit, 1:05
Seattle at Oakland, 3:35
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, 7:05
Tampa Bay at Cleveland, 7:05
Baltimore at **TORONTO**, 7:07
L.A. Angels at Texas, 8:05
Chicago Sox at Kansas City, 8:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis at Philadelphia, 1:05
San Francisco at N.Y. Mets, 1:10
Colorado at Milwaukee, 2:05
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 2:20
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, 7:05
Arizona at Washington, 7:10
Florida at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

CFL

WEEK 3

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Calgary at Montreal, 7
TORONTO at Edmonton, 10

TOMORROW'S GAME

B.C. at Winnipeg, 8

SATURDAY'S GAME

Saskatchewan at Hamilton, 4

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:

LAST NIGHT'S GAME

TORONTO at Vancouver

Jays squeak past O's

Burnett delivers mixed result ahead of trade deadline

BLUE JAYS 9 ORIOLES 8

C.C. Sabathia's been traded and so too has Rich Harden. That leaves A.J. Burnett as one of the most intriguing arms circling through the pre-trade deadline rumour mill, and he gave potential suitors lots to think about last night.

The enigmatic right-hander was both brilliant and brutal versus the Baltimore Orioles, dominating early before fading dramatically in a 9-8 Blue Jays victory.

Burnett gave up seven runs, six of them in a dreadful sixth he could not escape. Staked to an 8-1 lead, he nearly gave it all back before he was mercifully pulled after Adam Jones' three-run blast made it a one-run game.

Set for an easy night after their most productive inning of the season, a seven-run fourth, the Blue Jays instead had to hold on for their third win in four games before a crowd of 22,365.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays baserunner David Eckstein slides in to score behind Baltimore Orioles catcher Ramon Hernandez during fourth inning action last night at Rogers Centre.

A clutch RBI single from Scott Rolen in the bottom of the sixth scored Vernon Wells — who later left the game with a cramp in his leg — to provide some needed insurance, while Alex Rios gunned down Aubrey Huff at the plate in the seventh to help ensure the Orioles lost their fourth straight.

B.J. Ryan pitched the ninth, giving up a solo shot to Nick Markakis before earning his 17th save.

Speculation about Burnett's future has hung around the team all season thanks to the opt-out clause in his contract that he can exercise this fall. By doing that, Burnett would give up the final two years and $24 million US of the $55-million, five-year deal he signed after the 2005 season. It's coming to a head now.

Many are convinced Burnett plans to opt-out — his recent musings about wanting to pitch for the Cubs didn't help — leaving the Blue Jays with the choice of trying to move him for prospects before the non-waiver trade deadline at the end of the month, or letting him walk away for compensatory draft picks in the fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays juggle rotation as McGowan goes down

MLB Still awaiting word on the severity of Dustin McGowan's shoulder injury, the Blue Jays juggled their starting rotation yesterday to prepare for the right-hander's indefinite absence.

Brian Tallet will come out of the bullpen to start Sunday in place of McGowan, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list. John Parrish, filling in for the injured Shaun Marcum, will start tonight in place of Roy Halladay, who'll be pushed back a day to pitch against the New York Yankees tomorrow.

Jesse Litsch, tomorrow's scheduled starter, goes Saturday while reliever Brian Wolfe was recalled from triple-A Syracuse.

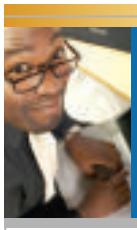
McGowan

"I certainly hope we don't have any more (injuries)," said manager Cito Gaston. "It's starting to be a problem."

McGowan underwent an MRI yesterday after leaving his outing a night earlier against Baltimore because of soreness in his right shoulder. He left his start after just four innings and 66 pitches, saying the pain was too much to bear.

His velocity was down noticeably, in the low 90s rather than in the mid-to-high 90s that is his norm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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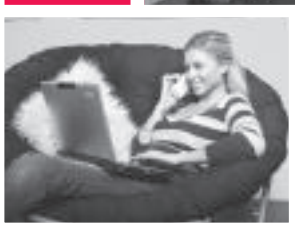

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NHL
The New York Islanders have signed alternate captain Brendan Witt to a two-year contract extension worth $6 million US through the 2010-11 season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOTTERIES

Lotto 6/49	2, 25, 28, 40, 45 & 46. Bonus 34.
Ontario 49	12, 26, 28, 33, 34 & 36. Bonus 19.
Ontario Pick 3	4 9 5
Ontario Pick 4	1 8 7 0
Encore	2761680
Daily Keno	8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 33, 36, 40, 41, 44, 48, 60, 61, 62, 67, 69, 70.

Results not official

Sports in brief

NHL Goalie Ray Emery, bought out by the Ottawa Senators last month, has signed a one-year deal worth around $2 million US with Atlant Mytishchi of the Continental Hockey League in Russia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL The Washington Capitals agreed to a $4-million US, one-year deal with veteran Sergei Fedorov yesterday and also locked up Brooks Laich to a $6.1-million, three-year pact. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL The Columbus Blue Jackets have signed coach Ken Hitchcock to a three-year contact extension. The Blue Jackets were 34-36-12 under Hitchcock last season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PLAYING THE LOTTERY
STEP BY STEP

SIGN IT

SIGN YOUR LOTTO TICKET

- All lottery tickets must be signed before they can be checked by a retailer.
- Remember, signing your ticket when you purchase it identifies it as yours and helps protect you if you were ever to lose it.

CHECK IT

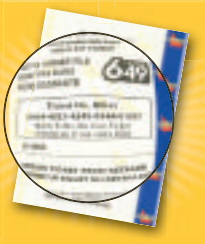
Check your ticket on your own by:
- Using a self-serve ticket checker
- Picking up a winning numbers print-out at your lottery retailer
- Visiting OLG.ca
- Calling our WinLine at 416.870.8946

SEE IT

- Check the customer display screen to see if you have won.
- It will show you in large characters if you have won a prize and the amount of that prize.

HEAR IT

- If your ticket is a winner, listen for a winning message playing from the lottery terminal.
- If your ticket is not a winner, listen for a 'No Prize' message.



DOUBLE-CHECK IT

- After processing, the retailer must return the ticket to you with a corresponding customer receipt.
- Check that the ticket number on the receipt matches the ticket number on your original ticket.

KEEP IT

- If you win up to $300, you'll receive your winnings, the original ticket with a tear through the bar code and the corresponding customer receipt (some retailers can pay up to $999).
- If you win more than what the retailer can pay out, keep the ticket and the receipt in a safe place and refer to the back of the ticket for instructions on how to redeem.
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Tour Glorious day for Cavendish

RAFA CZERWINSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Cavendish of Great Britain reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the fifth stage of the Tour de France yesterday ahead of Oscar Freire of Spain. German rider Stefan Schumacher held on to the overall leader's yellow jersey.

NHL rejects Frogren deal

Maple Leafs may face battle

The NHL has rejected the Maple Leafs' contract offer to Swedish defenceman Jonas Frogren, foreshadowing a precedent-setting battle for late-blooming European players who have never played in the NHL.

The Leafs and Frogren agreed to terms on a two-year deal believed to be worth $2.1 million US. Frogren, who turns 28 in August, was to get $450,000 in his first year, $900,000 in his second and a $700,000 signing bonus. It's believed he agreed to pay his Swedish Elite League club $400,000 to get out of the final year of his contract.

The NHL believes Frogren, a self-described late bloomer who likes the smaller North American ice surfaces, is a rookie and subject to an entry-level contract. If the NHL is right, he could be limited to a one-year term, earning as little as $450,000.

The Leafs and Frogren's agent, Don Meehan, believe Frogren to be an unrestricted free agent.

The dispute boils down to transition rules between successive collective bargaining agreements, including the interpretation of the 2005 CBA's definition of a "free agent" contrasted with Frogren's status as a "defected" player under the previous CBA. "Defected status" was his official listing, resulting from the fact he had been drafted by the Calgary Flames in 1998, but never came to the NHL.

Frogren

"It comes down to a question of interpretation," said a source close to the deal. "The CBA is relatively new and things haven't happened before where they've had to deal with it.

"This is one of those instances where they've never had a 28-year-old free agent signing his first contract. There's an interpretation issue."

Leafs GM Cliff Fletcher forecasts Frogren to be a Leaf blue-line regular after his stellar world championship on Team Sweden that had scouts raving.

"I'm hopeful this will be resolved and he'll be in camp by September," said Fletcher. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA
The Raptors announced the hiring of Matt Devlin as their new TV play-by-play man yesterday. Devlin will replace Chuck Swirsky. THE CANADIAN PRESS

O'Neal happy to be part of 'Twin Towers'

Raptors unveil new player, Calderon's deal

If Jermaine O'Neal has his way, the NBA will boast a new set of Twin Towers next season.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jermaine O'Neal, flanked by head coach Sam Mitchell, left, and general manager Bryan Colangelo, shows off his new No. 6 Raptors jersey yesterday at Air Canada Centre.

The Raptors formally introduced the six-time all-star yesterday after a trade with Indiana that was agreed to in principle before last month's draft. The Raptors also announced that Spanish guard Jose Calderon has signed a multi-year contract.

O'Neal and Chris Bosh give the Raptors one of the most imposing frontcourts in the Eastern Conference. The two forwards have nine all-star appearances between them, and should give opposing big men headaches with their combination of speed, size and skill.

O'Neal went so far as to suggest the Raptors might have themselves a 1-2 frontcourt punch to rival retired San Antonio Spurs centre David Robinson and future Hall-of-Fame forward Tim Duncan, known as the Twin Towers when they played together.

"One of us is going to be on the court all the time," said O'Neal. "It doesn't give a team time to adjust. It's going to be tough to deal with."

Dressed in a sleek black suit and flanked by his wife Mesha, O'Neal said he viewed his trade to the Raptors as a new start after years of controversy and subpar results in Indiana.

He wasn't the only one.

"My mother started freaking out because she knows I don't show a lot of emotion," said O'Neal, who admitted he cried upon learning of the trade. "It was just like, the suffering (was over) ... and it's unfortunate because I had a lot of great times in Indiana."

Along with O'Neal, the Raptors also acquired the draft rights to forward Nathan Jawai in exchange for guard T.J. Ford, centre Rasho Nesterovic, forward Maceo Baston and the draft rights to centre Roy Hibbert.

By trading Ford, Colangelo and head coach Sam Mitchell made it clear that Calderon was ready to assume the starting point guard role on a full-time basis. The 6-foot-3 Spaniard was one of the league's most efficient point guards in 2007-08, ranking eighth in assists and leading the league in assist-to-turnover ratio.

Calderon said he still sees plenty of room for improvement.

"I want to improve in every aspect of my game," said Calderon. "I think I can learn every day from everybody, so I can get much better."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

NBA Elton Brand and the Philadelphia 76ers made it official yesterday on a five-year deal worth a reported $82-million US, a shrewd move that promptly turned the emerging franchise into Eastern Conference contenders. Brand opted out of his contract with the Los Angeles Clippers last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA The Trail Blazers completed the draft-night deal that brought Jerryd Bayless and forward Ike Diogu to Portland, and sent Brandon Rush, Jarrett Jack, Josh McRoberts and cash to the Indiana Pacers. The Blazers acquired the draft rights to Bayless, the 11th overall pick, while Indiana received the rights to Rush, the 13th pick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA The New York Knicks signed Chris Duhon to a two-year deal yesterday worth more than $11 million US, giving them another option at point guard if they part ways with Stephon Marbury. Duhon spent his first four years with the Chicago Bulls, averaging a career-low 5.8 points last season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Athletics
World champion hurdler Jana Rawlinson was ruled out of the Beijing Olympics because of toe and related injuries hours after she was selected for her third Australian Summer Games team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing Games

Sports in brief

POLITICS French President Nicolas Sarkozy will attend the opening of the Olympics next month, his office said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHLETICS British sprinter Dwain Chambers will find out next week whether he'll be eligible to compete at the Beijing Games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER FIFA will issue guidelines by today to calm tension between clubs and countries over the use of players for the Olympics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tomorrow's lineup

SPLASHING OUT Once the absent underdogs of the sport, the Canadian men's water polo team is looking to make a big splash at the Olympics. Read tomorrow's Metro for more.

28 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Paddle to the podium

Oldershaw follows family tradition to get to Beijing

PHOTOS BY STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Flatwater canoeist Mark Oldershaw, left, sits with his coach — and father — Scott Oldershaw. Oldershaw says he is ready to face off against the world's finest at the Olympic Games next month.

ERIC BOWLING
for Metro Canada

Olympic-bound solo flatwater canoeist Mark Oldershaw is fulfilling his self-determined destiny in Beijing this August.

According to Oldershaw, he has wanted to paddle to the podium since he was eight-years-old.

"It's been a dream since I was a little kid," says Oldershaw, who is also picking at an English degree at Carleton University when he's not seeking global championships. "I grew up with the Olympics as part of my life with my grandfather, father and uncles all competing at the Olympics."

With four relatives now spanning three generations with Olympic experience, boating is in the Oldershaws' blood. His family is so intertwined with the sport that his coach also happens to be his father, Scott Oldershaw.

"It's good to have coaching pretty much 24/7," he says. "I can get coaching at the dinner table or at the club. Whenever I need it, he's there."

Oldershaw qualified for the Olympic Games in the C1 500m at the 2008 Flatwater Racing World Cup on June 5. Since then, he has been chiefly focusing on physical fitness, spending his time between his hometown of Burlington and Ottawa.

"I'm getting back more into basics," Oldershaw, 25, says. "Trying to get running again, back into the weight room to get stronger. Just working hard until around the beginning of August, when I'll tone it down and try to peak for Beijing."

While he knows he's got his work cut out for him if he's going to taste gold in Beijing, Oldershaw is ready to face off against the world's finest.

"The Olympic champion is Andreas Dittmer from Germany, and the last year's world champion is David Cal from Spain, but it's such a close race that any given day a whole handful of people could get on the podium. I consider myself one of (those) handful of people."

New Homes

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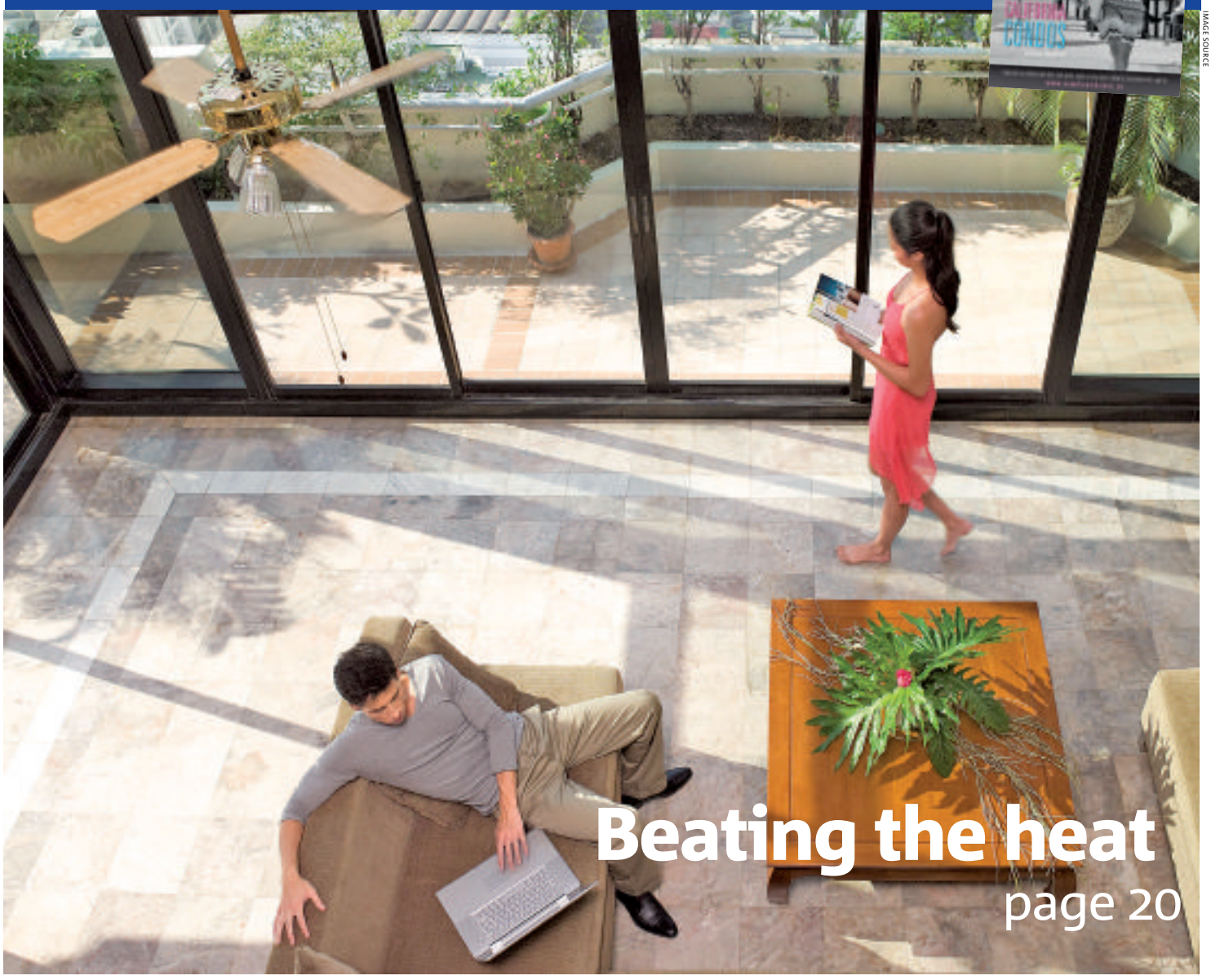
IMAGE SOURCE



Beating the heat

page 20

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Keeping your cool, naturally

There are ways to reduce heat at home without cranking the air conditioning

ArrestingDesign

Those hot sweltering days of summer are starting to make an appearance. Although we North Americans are accustomed to expensive air conditioning, the design teams knows there are ways to keep your décor naturally cool and inviting (and cheap!).

Think back on what grandma and grandpa always did when those dog days of summer were here — and start doing the same thing! A cold lemonade sure does help, but also consider these time-tested ways of keeping your house cool.

One of the most effective ways to cut down on heat entering the house is to cover your windows. Easy and good-looking décor solutions include opaque shades, bamboo blinds, mini-blinds or draperies. When they're closed, they can deflect 40 to 50 per cent of the solar heat gain that would enter your home without window coverings.

Light colours work best, since, as we all know, dark colours absorb heat and radiate it into our homes — not a good thing in summer. Close your window coverings and your window to keep out the sun and heated air during the time when the sun wants to shine through your window. This is especially significant for southern and western-facing windows. Only open them in the morning, evening, or at night, when your window is shaded or it is dark. When you do open them, try to open windows at opposite ends of a room to promote circulation.

ROB MELNYCHUK/DIGITAL VISION

Window coverings — especially light-coloured ones — are an easy way to keep the house cooler. When closed, they can deflect 40 to 50 per cent of the solar heat that would enter via windows.

Consider weatherproof blinds outside your window — these types of blinds can reduce heat entering the house because they deflect it before it enters the house. Shutters can also do the job.

Think back on what grandma and grandpa always did when those dog days of summer were here.

They can be installed seasonally, only for the summer months. But unless you have remote control, you'll have to go outside or reach through your window to open or close these coverings.

Shade, of course, mitigates the hot-house effect. Plantings, although they do take time to grow, can do wonders for reducing sunlight and heat entering your home.

This kind of cover is especially important on the south and west-facing part of the house, and is also beneficial for cutting the morning light on the east side. Deciduous plantings are best because they cut the heat in the summer and allow heat in the winter.

Another great way to introduce shade is to use attractive awnings and overhangs outside your windows, especially if the roof overhang does not produce adequate shade.

Awnings look great, especially in a more traditional setting. Inset windows, often found on more contemporary or modern dwellings, also produce shade. Inside the house, try to keep upholstery and fabric surfaces as light-coloured as you can during the summer — if you have dark-coloured upholstery, consider slipcovers.

Choose a gorgeous light-coloured fabric, and voila, you've got a great new look that reflects light rather than absorbing it and radiating heat.

Indoor fans also make it feel less hot. Ceiling fans are absolutely priceless at cooling, and there are certainly good-looking models available. Just be careful if you are bargain shopping — sometimes well-priced ceiling fans can be downright ugly. The same goes for portable or window fans. To blow heat out of the house, they should be located on the downwind side of the house and facing outwards. A window should be open in each room and interior doors open to allow air flow.

And if you still decide you still need to use an air conditioner, just make sure you seal the system well.

Use caulking and weatherstripping to minimize the loss of cooled air.

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are co-hosts of Arresting Design on W Network.

Know what you're getting into before you buy

Believe it or not, but more than half of 2008 is behind us. If the dog days of summer haven't already set in, they're certainly close. o with the swing of summer in full effect I'm sure you're all wondering if the real estate market is keeping up with this hot July weather.

As anticipated, the market has not maintained the scorching pace it did through the record year of 2007, yet it remains healthy.

That means that while the number of resale houses and condos changing hands this year has dropped, the average price has continued to rise. It's also interesting to note that while sheer volume is lower than last year, it still maintains a steady rise from 2006.

There are more and more people seriously considering making that first purchase, and while the market continues to show signs of prosperity it is important to understand that your real estate purchase will likely be the largest and most significant purchase of your life.

"It is important to understand that your real estate purchase will likely be the most significant purchase of your life."

Therefore, you need to show it the respect it deserves.

The first step involves determining exactly how much money you have for a down payment today and, if applicable, how much more you believe you will have within the next year. If you're debating between new and resale and you realize that coming up with more than $10,000 to $15,000 will be uncomfortable, your decision has already been made for you.

When you're looking at new condos you're looking at approximately 10 per cent to 15 per cent within the first three months, and then up to an additional 5 per cent within the year.

Finally, you'll top off at around the 25 per cent mark four to six months before your closing, which can be anywhere from a few months to two-and-a-half years after your initial deposit.

Once you've determined how much of a down payment you're comfortable with, the next step is understanding exactly how much you'll be spending, on a monthly basis, on your carrying costs.

TheHunt

As a general rule of thumb you're looking at about $525 per $100,000 of borrowed money. If Natasha purchases a $300,000 condo with a 10 per cent down payment, her total borrowed money equals $270,000.

Natasha's monthly mortgage payment would be in the area of $1,400. Of course, it would benefit Natasha to consider her first-time buyer options, if possible, such as the RRSP plan, which would allow her to pull up to $20,000 tax free and use toward her down payment.

If Natasha added that $20,000 to her existing down payment, her mortgage payment would reduce to about $1,250.

The next step for Natasha is to account for her condo fees and property taxes, which will round out her carrying costs.

Depending on the class of building, her condo fees will total between $300 and $500 per month.

For some buildings they can stretch even higher, but that's an option and not a necessity. Her property taxes should work out to no more than $150-$200 per month.

Once Natasha understands how much of a monthly financial commitment her purchase will be, she's finally ready to move forward with finding the condo that best fits her.

It's important to recognize the difference between finding the home that best fits you, versus simply one that you can fit into.

I will discuss the next steps next week.

For now I'll leave you with the thought that your focus should now be on finding the home that best fits your existing lifestyle, and not on having to conform to a lifestyle just to make the purchase work.

Amit Paul is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. He can be reached at *amitp@rogers.com*.

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clippings

Riding the rails on a garden tour

PUBLIC GARDENS Now in its third season, until Sept. 7 you can ride the Via Rail Garden Route from Victoria to Halifax at a special price. Visit any or all of 15 of Canada's most significant public gardens and 28 top award-winning Communities In Bloom, while taking in the country's spectacular scenery on the way. For more information, visit *viarail.ca/garden*.

ROBERT HOWARD

Carbin garden water feature.

A well-weathered water garden

AFTER THE FALLS The most gorgeous water feature I've seen in an Ontario garden belongs to Bev and Bob Carbin of Burlington. Their waterfall is built of nine tonnes of weathered, mossy boulders — a misting system keeps the moss green and healthy — and from a natural pool at about eye level, a cascade drops 60 centimetres or so, then flows over several smaller falls. A rectangular, formal pond at the base of the falls contrasts with the weathered rocks, making them appear indigenous to the site.

— ROBERT HOWARD

Cool summer fruit

Enjoy a respite from the heat with refreshing melons from your garden

It was Mark Twain who suggested melons were "the proper food of angels," and who can argue? There may be nothing quite as ambrosial as a perfectly ripe cantaloupe or watermelon fresh from the vine. But knowing when to pick them can be tricky.

LINDA HINK

'Yellow Doll' watermelon

To test a watermelon for ripeness, Twain instructed gardeners in a game of musical melons. Pink, pank, punk: Rap a watermelon gently with your knuckles and listen. As the fruit matures the tone you hear will be lower — more punk than pink. Watermelons exhibit another sign of peak sweetness: the light-coloured patch on the underside of the rind, where the melon meets the mulch or soil, turns from white to cream, then to yellow. A cantaloupe is easier to judge. As it ripens, it begins detaching itself from the vine, and presumably rolls off on a seed-scattering life of its own — a process called slipping. At maturity, a thin crack appears around the fruit's stem, signalling it can be pulled from the vine with a gentle tug.

Before we get to the tasting stage, though, it has to be said that melons of any kind may not be right for every garden. The vines need plenty of heat over the roughly three months it takes from seed to table. But if tomatoes, cucumbers and/or peppers thrive in your area — and especially if peppers routinely mature from green to red — then melons are worth a try.

This is what melons require: full sun from dawn to dusk; warm, well-drained soil, on the sandy or gritty side rather than clay; room for the vines to roam; and time enough to grow and ripen.

For best results choose early-maturing cultivars and get a head start indoors — but not too much of one.

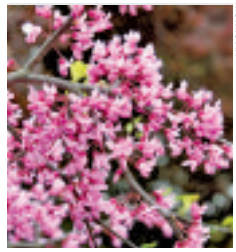
— PATRICK LIMA

Crying out A well-placed weeping tree will gladden the eye in any-sized garden

PETER A. HOGG PHOTOGRAPHY

'Walker' Weeping peashrub (Caragana arborescens 'Walker')

Lavender Twist redbud (Cercis canadensis 'Covey')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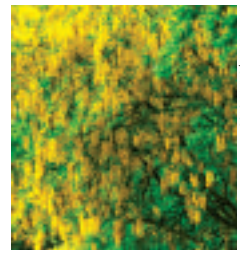
DOREEN WYNIA

Weeping Nootka false cypress (Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Pendula')

Golden chain tree (Laburnum x watereri 'Pendulum')


LYNN KEDDIE/GAP PHOTOS

ALLAN MANDELL

Weeping katsura tree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum 'Pendulum')

Well-worn gardening wisdom can sometime use debunking

ROGER YIP

MYTH: A layer of gravel at the bottom of plant pots aids drainage.

FACT: Water does not move easily from a layer of finer-textured material to a coarsely textured one. The coarser the underlying matter, the longer a pot takes to drain. So skip the gravel. (To prevent the potting mixture from spilling out of drainage holes — which are a must — as well as to let air in and keep bugs out, use a piece of window screening, mesh drywall joint tape or coffee filter in the bottom.)

MYTH: Crushed eggshells repel slugs.

FACT: Jeff Gillman, author of The Truth About Garden Remedies, found that a thick layer of eggshells slows slugs down a little, but it doesn't repel or kill them. Insecticidal diatomaceous earth, however, works very well. This natural substance consists of fossilized skeletons of marine and freshwater organisms crushed into powdered glass-like pieces. When slugs get it on their bodies, they lose water rapidly through tiny cuts, then dry up and die. It also repels these pests because they try to avoid contact.

— YVONNE CUNNINGTON

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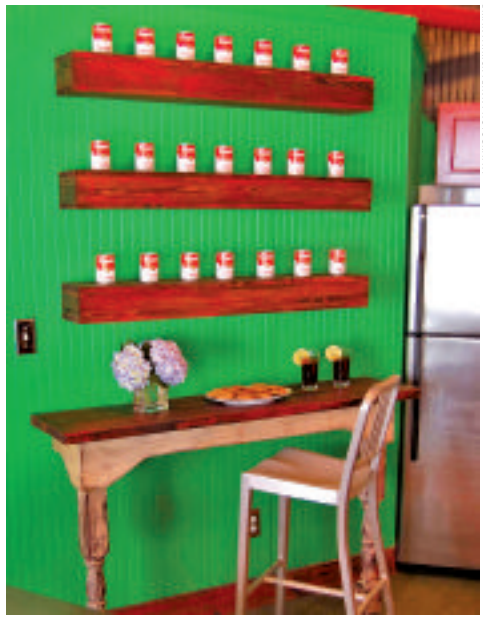
Efficient and kitschy kitchens

If your kitchen feels inefficient or cluttered, here's good news from interior designers: Even the oldest kitchens can become streamlined, attractive work spaces without major remodelling.



BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

A kitchen design by interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn. He suggests displaying your favourite non-perishable foods on open shelving.

The first step is assessing how you really use your kitchen. Do you do lots of cooking and baking, or is the microwave your best friend? What items do you use and which collect dust? ("There's only three things in my kitchen I know how to use," admits interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn, and the main one is the microwave.)

Once you know how you work, says designer Janine Carendi, "trim down to the bare necessities."

People often keep unwanted, worn or damaged kitchen items just in case they might come in handy. But unless you have ample kitchen storage, saving that set of chipped dishes or that space-hogging sandwich maker will only make it harder to conveniently store what you do use.

Donate to charity or share these items with friends or family members.

Once you know how you work in your kitchen, trim down to the bare necessities.

Spices, too, should be jettisoned once they get old. And things used only on special occasions (like an oversized roasting pan for Thanksgiving turkey) can be stored in a transparent plastic bin in your garage or basement.

Once the culling is done, Flynn, Carendi and Mallory Mathison, all named to Domino magazine's "10 Designers on the Verge" list this year, say it's time to think outside the cabinet:

• Display your favourite non-perishable foods on open shelving. For example, streamline your family's breakfast routine (while freeing up space in cabinets), by displaying several cereals in transparent canisters on a shelf next to a stack of pretty bowls and spoons, says Flynn.

"I like to keep the foods that I eat most often completely separate from other things stored in the cabinets or pantry," he says. "It keeps me from rummaging through things, which will ultimately lead to more disorganization. I go all out with it and actually kind of style the open system like an old general store."

• Another vertical idea: Mathison suggests attaching hooks or towel racks to a wall or pantry door for hanging your supply of dishtowels. She also recommends hanging pots, pans and glassware on racks to save space.

If you don't have a traditional pot rack, she says, get five-centimetre dowels. "Hang the dowels straight across, put hooks on them and hang up the pots." Carendi says utensils can also be hung on small racks, so they're visible and accessible but not using up counter space.

• Know at a glance what you have by emptying half-full boxes of pasta and rice into clear plastic containers. If you can quickly see your supply, you'll be less likely to mistakenly buy things you don't need. If canned goods tend to get forgotten in the recesses of your pantry or cabinets, place them on small "lazy Susan" turntables where you can see everything.

"The more you know where things are and the more you can see them, the more you'll end up using them," says Carendi.

• If your cabinet doors are solid, have a carpenter cut out the centre of each door and replace it with Plexiglas, says Flynn. No more opening the wrong cabinet in search of something. If you'd rather not have your cabinets' contents fully visible, have the Plexiglas frosted so that you can see just outlines of what's inside.

• Small appliances take up vital counter space and attract clutter, so Carendi recommends storing them out of sight. If you worry these appliances will get ignored, devote one cabinet to all of them. They'll be stashed away but easily accessed. Flynn recommends putting your microwave in a cabinet, too, assuming it's small enough and there is good ventilation. You may need to have an electrician add an outlet.

• Replace the chairs on one or both sides of your kitchen table with benches that have storage space inside, says Mathison. Clutter that gathers on the kitchen table or counters can be stored inside the benches at meal time.

• Don't forget the highest spaces, says Carendi. Have a step stool nearby to easily access things stored on top shelves or above cabinets. If you're replacing or updating cabinets, she recommends installing them up to the ceiling. Empty space above cabinets "just attracts dirt and clutter," she says.

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Figuring out interim occupancy

Purchasers of new condos can move in before the land is transfered into their name

Q I signed a contract to purchase a new condominium a couple years ago and it is finally ready for me to move in. However, the builder is saying that I have to take interim occupancy and that the property will not be transferred into my name until a later date. Could you explain this process?

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

A Most contracts for the purchase of a new condominium have occupancy provisions that allow the builder to set a date of occupancy (sometimes called interim occupancy) when the building is substantially complete but before the condominium corporation and constating documents have not been registered with the Land Registry office. During this period, the purchaser takes possession of their living unit and pays the builder three items: An occupancy fee that is sometimes referred to as phantom mortgage; common expenses to the general upkeep of the building; an estimate of what the realty taxes would be for the unit. Effectively, the purchaser is carrying the costs of the unit rather than the builder while the rest of the building is being completed. Often in large buildings, the purchasers on the lower floors will be resident while the units at the top of the building may not yet be livable. Therefore, the purchasers frequently take occupancy in stages.

There are a few other items that a purchaser of a new condominium should know about interim occupancy. Often the contract stipulates that the purchaser cannot lease or sell or even advertise for sale the unit while they are in interim occupancy. This is at the discretion of the builder and sometimes they will allow you to lease out your unit but it is entirely their decision. So, beware if you are buying a condominium for investment purposes and you plan on renting it out. There is generally a prohibition to this during interim occupancy so you will have to cover the carrying charges.

"Purchasers cannot lease of sell or even advertise for sale the unit while they are in interim occupancy."

The interim occupancy period can range from a few weeks to several months. I have one client who took interim occupancy last August and they are finally purchasing their unit on July 30. This is an unusually long time frame but not unheard of.

You should also remember that the builder is motivated to register the condominium documents as soon as possible so they can move on to their next project (some clients have speculated that the builder is just sitting around not doing anything, which is not my experience).

*****

I also wanted to make a clarification to my last column with respect to GST. The value of the property is reduced when you get a GST rebate on a new construction for purposes of Land Transfer Tax, but there is no reduction in the amount you have to pay at the end of the day for your new home.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & solicitors that practice in the areas of business and real estate law.

As new condominium buildings near completion, some residents on the lower levels may be able to move in while the units at the top of the building are not yet livable.

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The vibrant interiors will include a sensational lobby appointed by award-winning Mike Niven Interior Design Inc.

Uniformed 24/7 concierge service is just one of the things that will make life at UltrA UltrA-attractive.

The three buildings at Heron's Hill will have exclusive use of "Reflections" at Heron's Hill Recreation Centre with an 18' x 50' swimming pool, change room and whirlpool. Plus, UltrA at Heron's Hill will have Club UltrA with its own amenities space including a fitness room, his/her saunas, designer-decorated special occasion party room, sports lounge and theatre.

The new condominium will also encompass two designer-decorated guest suites, a car wash bay in the underground parking, and an impressive roster of standard suite features. These include laminate flooring in living areas, sisal or 40-ounce broadloom in bedrooms and rich ceramics in the bathrooms.

Highlights in the contemporary kitchens range from granite countertops to ceramic backsplashes, stainless steel appliances, and a pantry and/or breakfast bar (as per plan).

In the bathrooms, a cultured marble countertop adds panache.

And infusing it all with natural light will be a multitude of expansive Low-E windows.

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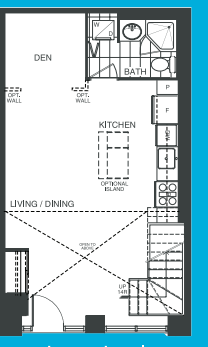

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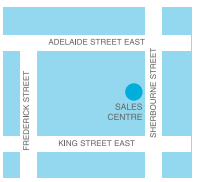

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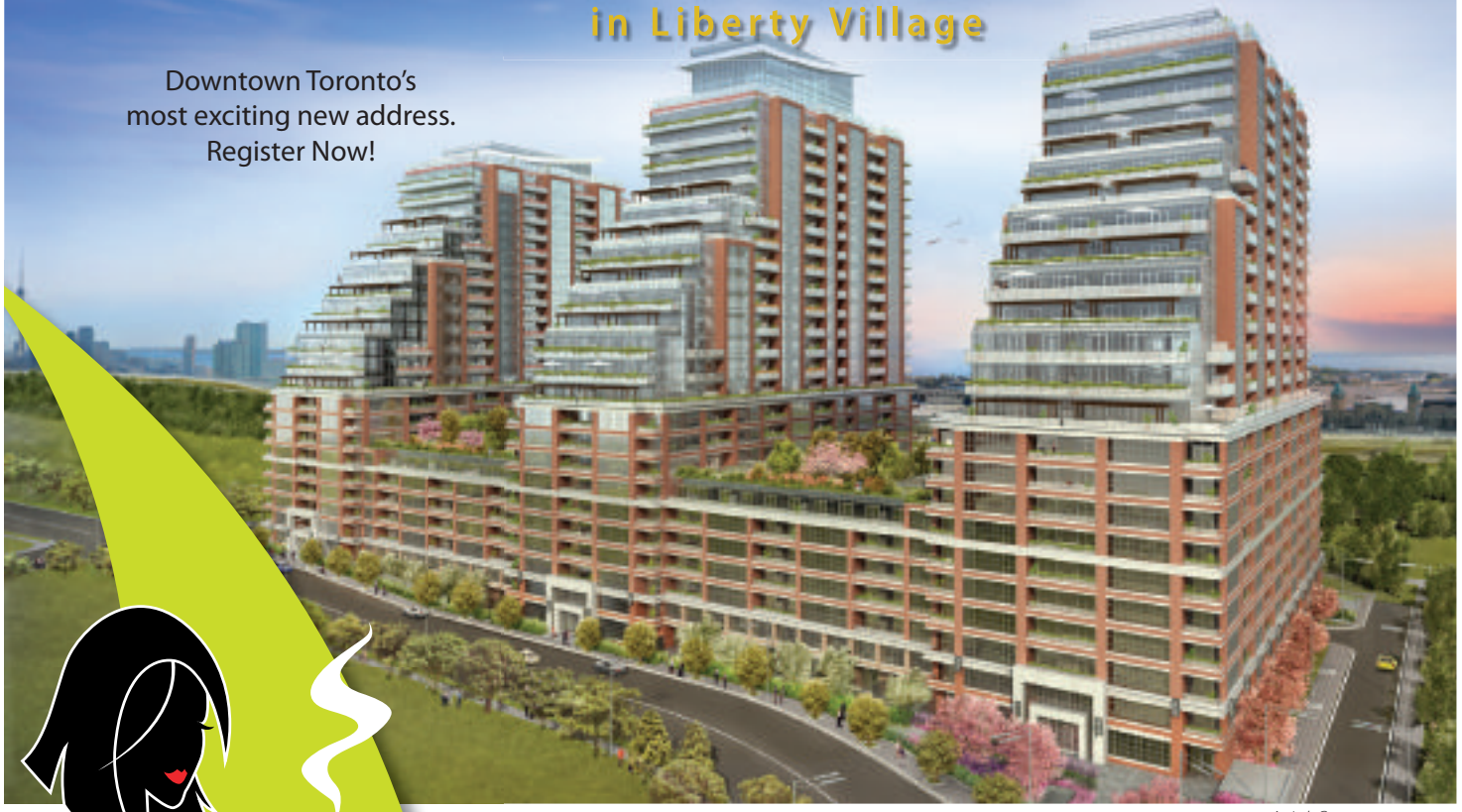

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[yellow tail] wines is leading the charge toward a new trend in wine pairings with the launch of its FesTiVal campaign throughout Canada. The FesTiVal takes a new twist on traditional wine pairings through a combination of simple food, great wines and your favourite movie. Check out some film and wine pairings at *yellowtailfestival.ca*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Rustic Italian red wine may appear a shade simple at first but give them time and you'll see what a good friend they can be."

To read this week's complete Billy's Best Bottles column, visit *metronews.ca*.

À la carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer

Keeping it simple with cool summer salads

When the temperature soars, cooler cooking should prevail. Often our appetites lessen while thirst increases in hot weather. Take your cooking outdoors and serve up big salads by grilling up lots of fresh vegetables and seasoned or marinated meat. Slice all and toss with plenty of crisp greens in a favourite dressing. Keep it simple.

Warm Asian Chicken & Napa Cabbage Salad

Keep the heat out of the kitchen. The main dish salad is a nice combination of colour, texture and flavour and perfect for warm days. Oranges provide a hit of sweetness and colour.

INGREDIENTS:

2 oranges
1 tbsp (15 mL) each: chili garlic sauce and soy sauce
1 lb (500 g) boneless, skinless chicken thighs
1 red pepper, quartered
8 cups shredded napa cabbage (Chinese cabbage), about 1 lb (500 g)
2 green onions, sliced
½ cup (125 mL) fresh coriander leaves
Dressing:
2 tbsp (30 mL) each: rice vinegar and vegetable oil
1 tbsp (15 mL) each: chili garlic sauce, soy sauce, minced fresh ginger
Salt and pepper

METHOD:

Using a sharp knife, remove peel and white pith from oranges. Over a bowl, cut between membranes to release segments. Catch juice in separate small bowl, squeezing remaining membranes to get all the juice. Add 1 tbsp (15 mL) chili garlic sauce and soy sauce to orange juice. Trim any excess fat from chicken and add chicken to orange mixture to marinate while preparing other ingredients.

In large salad bowl, place cabbage, orange segments, green onions and coriander.

Whisk dressing ingredients together.

Grill chicken and red pepper on preheated barbecue over medium to medium-high heat until chicken is tender and cooked through and pepper is lightly softened, 15 to 20 minutes.

Slice chicken and red pepper into strips; add to salad along with dressing and toss well. Serve immediately. Makes 4 main course servings.

Napa cabbage tips:

• Napa cabbage, sometimes labelled Chinese cabbage is a tightly packed head of wide stalks with elongated, crinkled leaves that are creamy white or pale green. It has a mild, sweet cabbage flavour, sort of a cross between cabbage, lettuce and celery. It has a lightly crunchy texture that is good raw, lightly steamed or stir-fried.

• Storage: Refrigerate napa cabbage in a plastic bag, as it readily absorbs nearby odours and use within one week.

• Good for you: Napa cabbage contains only 15 calories per raw cup while supplying a wealth of healthy nutrients. Like its other cruciferous cousins, broccoli, kale and mustard greens, napa cabbage is a good source of vitamin C and dietary fibre, as well as folate, Vitamin A, beta carotene and calcium.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Oranges provide a hit of sweetness and colour to this recipe, which includes napa cabbage, inset, chicken and red pepper.

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To protect nuts and seeds from going rancid, this month's issue of ShopSmart advises you store them in the fridge; they'll last up to six months. In the freezer, they'll last up to 12 months. Keep them in airtight, snack- or recipe-size portions so you can thaw only what you want to use. Toasting refrigerated or thawed nuts in a skillet or the oven for a few minutes will bring out the flavour. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Discover joy of grain-free gourmet

Everyday Grain-Free Gourmet: Breakfast, Lunch And Dinner by Jodi Bager and Jenny Lass is offering people with celiac disease — and the growing number of people choosing to go wheat-free — an innovative cooking style that allows them to make all their old favourites in new ways and rediscover the joy of eating. Bager is president of baked goods manufacturing company Grain-Free JK Gourmet, and Jenny Lass is a Toronto-based medical writer and cooking consultant. Whitecap Books has offered Metro this recipe from Everyday Grain-Free Gourmet:

Seared Tuna with Carrot Fritters

Perfect for company, this dish is simple to make and looks beautiful. It is sure to please all the seared tuna lovers you know. The carrot fritters can be made ahead of time and reheated in a 250 F (120 C) oven for 30 minutes until hot. Serves 4.

INGREDIENTS:

Fritters:

1 cup (250 mL) grated carrot
½ cup (125 mL) grated extra old cheddar cheese
½ cup (125 mL) almond flour
1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
2 large eggs
1 tsp (5 mL) Dijon or seedy mustard
¼ cup (60 mL) Yogurt
1 pinch of salt
freshly ground black pepper
sunflower oil for cooking

Seared Tuna:

olive oil for brushing on the tuna
1½ lb (750 g) sushi grade tuna
salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD:

Add the carrots, cheddar cheese, almond flour, and baking soda to a medium-sized bowl and toss to mix thoroughly.

In another small bowl, combine the eggs, mustard, yogurt, salt, and freshly ground pepper and stir well. Add the dry ingredients to the wet and mix thoroughly.

Coat a frying pan with a bit of oil and turn to medium heat. It is not necessary to fry these fritters in a lot of oil; just a light coating of oil in the frying pan will do the job well.

Drop heaping teaspoons full of the mixture on the hot pan and fry, turning once, until browned and cooked through.

Place the cooked fritters on paper towels to absorb any excess oil. Transfer them to an ovenproof dish and keep them warm in the oven at 175 F (85 C).

Brush the tuna with a bit of olive oil and season with salt and freshly ground pepper. Heat a frying pan to smoking or heat a barbecue grill to high.

Sear the tuna in the pan or on the grill for two to three minutes per side, depending on the thickness of the fish.

Remove the tuna from the heat and let rest for one minute before slicing with the grain.

Everyday Grain-Free Gourmet: Breakfast, Lunch And Dinner (Paperback) is available at *Amazon.ca* for $18.87.

Seared Tuna With Carrot Fritters is served with dollops of aioli in between the tuna slices. A recipe for aioli is included in the book.

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When it comes to storing cheese, ShopSmart found conflicting advice. Fancy cheese shops advise storing it in a porous wrap like wax paper so the cheese can breathe. The dairy and packaging pros said to keep cheese as airtight as possible, which will prevent mould. ShopSmart's advice: Wrap it first in wax paper, then wrap it tightly in plastic. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Faster than you can say 'yum'

The latest book in Eric Akis' bestselling Everyone Can Cook series, Midweek Meals caters to people with busy lifestyles who value eating home-cooked meals with their families. Brimming with over 120 easy-to-follow recipes that are simple and quick to prepare, this book will help you avoid buying expensive, sodium-filled, fat-saturated, ready-made meals. Eric Akis is a food writer for the Times Colonist in Victoria and a freelance food consultant. Whitecap Books has offered Metro this recipe from Everyone Can Cook Midweek Meals: Recipes for Cooks on the Run:

Thin-crust Tortilla Pizza

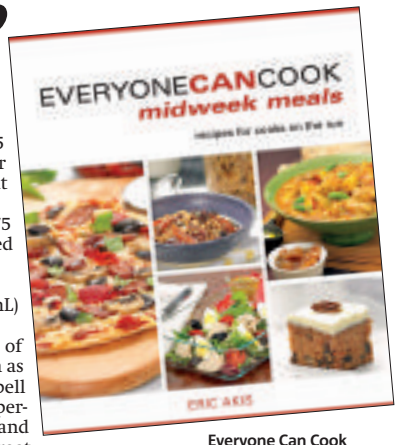
When the pizza craving strikes, you can whip one up in minutes with this simple recipe using tortillas you can find at any grocery store. The preparation time is 15 minutes, the cooking time is 10–12 minutes and this recipe makes one pizza, or 2–3 servings. Eric's options: Double or triple this recipe if you're feeding a larger group.

INGREDIENTS:

2 10-inch (25 cm) white or whole wheat tortillas
1½ cups (375 mL) grated mozzarella cheese
⅓ cup (75 mL) pizza sauce
Your choice of toppings, such as mushrooms, bell peppers, pepperoni, olives and nuggets of goat cheese

METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Place 1 tortilla on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Evenly top with half the grated cheese. Top with the second tortilla. Spread the pizza sauce overtop. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese and your desired pizza toppings. Bake for 10–12 minutes. Cool for a minute or two before cutting into wedges and serving.



Everyone Can Cook Midweek Meals: Recipes for Cooks on the Run (Paperback) is available at *Amazon.ca* for $15.72.

When the pizza craving strikes, you can whip up one of these quick and simple tortilla pizzas in just minutes.

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ShopSmart, from the publisher of Consumer Reports, says bread can go stale or get mouldy left out on a counter or stored in the fridge. If you're not going to eat it fast, you can keep bread in the freezer for up to three months. To refresh thawed baguettes, rolls, and other breads, unwrap and heat them in the microwave for a few seconds. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Lean Mediterranean cuisine

Feature Eating seasonally instead of buying imported tomatoes in January or asparagus in February is so much a part of David Rocco's Italian background that he simply can't imagine buying produce from the U.S. or South America.

"Buying fruit and vegetables in season means you have a sense of food memories with August as peach season and November, if you are Italian, truffles and olive oil," says the 38-year-old host of Food Network Canada's David Rocco's Dolce Vita, which was filmed entirely on location in Italy.

Now he has partnered with The Heart and Stroke Foundation to create a 12-month series of recipes accompanied by online cooking videos. The videos, which can be seen at *heartandstroke.ca/davidrocco*, show viewers how to create simple meals based on the Mediterranean diet.

Each month, Rocco makes a healthy, family-friendly recipe that delivers maximum flavour and, in keeping with the dietary guidelines set out by the foundation, uses ingredients like heart-healthy olive oil and herbs instead of salt.

Toronto-born Rocco says he is always asked why Mediterranean people can eat such delicious food and yet maintain a healthy weight.

"I believe that they grow up understanding the importance of eating according to the seasons and preparing food without heavy, high-fat sauces. Eating is such a pleasure that learning how to enjoy good food in moderation is one of the keys to a happy, healthy life."

He says that instead of eating cherry tomatoes from offshore in the winter, eat canned tomatoes that were grown in Canada the previous summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

David Rocco is host of the Food Network Canada's Dolce Vita.

For this recipe, the spaghetti should be cooked al dente.

David Rocco's Spaghetti Alla Caprese

The following is a recipe from Rocco's collection which is perfect for July and August because homegrown tomatoes and basil are in backyard gardens and produce markets across Canada.

Spaghetti Alla Caprese

INGREDIENTS:

500 g (1 lb) spaghetti
2 tomatoes, diced
1 large mozzarella ball, cubed
125 ml (1/2 cup) extra-virgin olive oil
5 ml (1 tsp) oregano
Salt, to taste
4 basil leavese

METHOD:

Cook spaghetti in salted boiling water for 8 minutes or until al dente. Meanwhile, begin to make sauce.

In a large bowl, mix tomatoes and mozzarella. Add olive oil, oregano, salt and basil.

When spaghetti is ready, add it to bowl with about 125 ml (1/2 cup) of pasta water. Mix well and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

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Miss Universe
Roberto Cavalli and Nadine Velasquez will join Donald Trump, Jr. and Miss Universe 2004 Jennifer Hawkins as celeb judges of the Miss Universe pageant this Sunday from Vietnam, TMZ reports. METRO

Entertainment

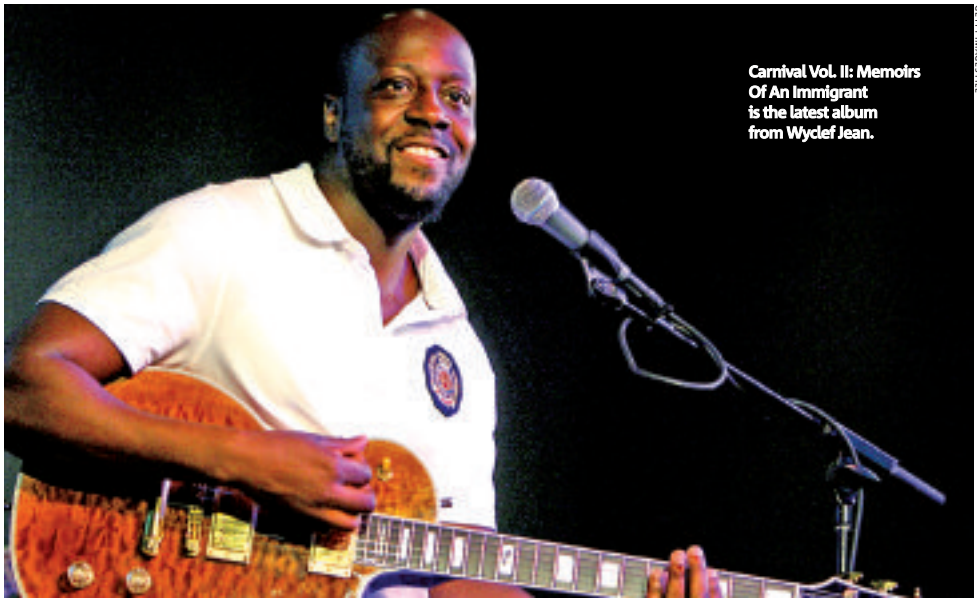
Big surprise
Former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson has entered Australia's Big Brother house, surprising its six housemates, BBC News reports. METRO

Wyclef pens Immigrant songs

Performer and producer balances Haitian charity work with busy music career

ROB MCMAHON
rob.mcmahon@metronews.ca

Like a hip-hop Bono, Wyclef Jean is deep in music and charity work.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

Carnival Vol. II: Memoirs Of An Immigrant is the latest album from Wyclef Jean.

Reached at a Manhattan studio, the former Fugee was wrapping up a recording session with Shakira — and just over jetlag. He had recently traveled to Haiti to visit his charity, Yele Haiti, which is working with the World Food Program to raise $48 million US towards his former home's food and agriculture crisis.

"It's definitely a sacrifice to try to keep up with my music career and still balance it with charity work," said Jean. "(But) I think being optimistic is always better. It's the hope of John Lennon — no matter how crappy things are, you should still give peace a chance."

That theme is apparent on the rapper-producer's latest, Carnival Vol. II: Memoirs Of An Immigrant. Uniting the album's reggae, rock and hip-hop rhythms is a perspective that acknowledges the world is darker than it was when Jean put out the original Carnival.

"Within that 10-year period, I've traveled a lot of the world, and…when you go to Brazil and see the favelas and know the government sees them too, you ask why they don't do anything," he said. "I was born in a hut and raised in the ghetto…A lot of people I know are doing double life in prison for something they did at a young age, and in their minds they really believe they might get an appeal, because if they ever lose that sense of hope, they would get a rope and hang themselves."

For that reason, after kicking off with relatively dark banger Riot, the disc flows into positive jams. It flips the nihilist anthem C.R.E.A.M to a hopeful refrain on Sweetest Girl (Dollar Bill), and as always, draws on guests like dancehall singer Sizzla, Mary J. Blige, Akon and even Paul Simon. Musically, Jean takes the pop-oriented production of Carnival I and mixes it with the explorations of 2004's Welcome to Haiti: Creole 101. Recorded in Creole and English and built around Caribbean rhythms, it was released on his label Sak Pasé and had a relatively low profile.

"(With) Carnival II, I wanted to bring Haiti to the masses. With Welcome to Haiti, I thought it would do that, but it didn't," he said, laughing. "(So) to get the masses, I had to do a record like Carnival — a great world music record that had a message."

in concert

Wyclef Jean plays the Molson Amphitheatre tonight with Akon, Sean Paul and Kardinal Offishall. Tickets are still available at *ticketmaster.ca*.

In brief

QUEBEC The battle for seating space on the Plains of Abraham between Paul McCartney and Céline Dion has ended in a draw. Dion's husband, René Angélil, was upset her Aug. 22 gig to celebrate Quebec City's 400th anniversary was limited to 100,000 fans; McCartney's July 20 show was for 200,000. Organizers couldn't move Dion's show but have made room for another 100,000. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Counting down today's Fringe Festival picks

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

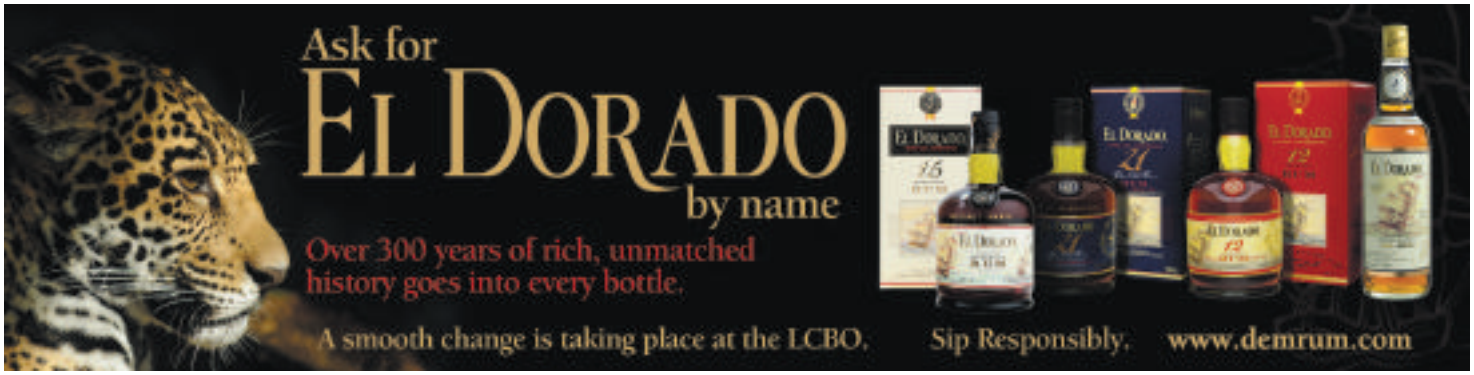
1. Adam Growe's The Mom And Pop Shop: Comedy veteran Growe imagines himself taking over a prenatal class taught by his wife, going from awkward excuses to expansive philosophizing on the philosophy of parenting.1:45 p.m. Theatre Passe Muraille 16 Ryerson Ave.

2. Bondage: "Many people are terrified of clowns," reads the program note for this show, so a show with clowns named Pox and Vendetta strapped and bound in place probably won't entirely dispel that fear, but it will probably intrigue other, less timorous emotions. 3:30 p.m. George Ignatieff Theatre 15 Devonshire Pl.

3. Wild About Harry: A musical salute to composer Harry Warren that spans the first half of the 20th century, as performed by three couples performing Warren's songs in a setting of tumultuous history. 5:15 p.m. Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse 79A St. George St.

4. What The Hell Am I Doing?: Twentysomething angst gets a workout in this comic drama about university students and indie musicians who make the mistake of pausing for a moment to ask the daunting question in the title. 7 p.m. Dragon Academy 35 Prince Arthur Ave.

5. Just Another School Shooting: Four teens who were left alive after a lethal rampage try to cope with everything from survivor's guilt to media frenzy in this play from New Brunswick. 11:15pm Royal St. George 120 Howland Ave.



Game On online
Read reviews of The Bourne Conspiracy and Naruto: Ultimate Ninja Heroes 2 at *metronews.ca*.

CMT PHOTO

Canadian Idol finalist Tara Oram is documenting the struggles and successes of a rising Canadian country music star in her new interactive television show, The Tara Diaries.

Not just another country girl

VERONICA BOODHAN
for Metro Toronto

After making it to the top six finalists on Canadian Idol last year, Tara Oram is making a comeback with her own new show.

"After (Canadian) Idol I didn't know what I was doing. I knew I had to somehow find a way to break into the music industry, which was my goal," said Oram after a private performance at the Gladstone Hotel on Tuesday.

The six-week series, The Tara Diaries, is a lighthearted comedic aim at the struggle and success of Oram's career as a rising Canadian country music star.

The show will also illustrate the impact of Oram's support system of family, friends and her boyfriend, Brian Melo, last year's Canadian Idol winner.

Unlike other reality shows, Oram's fans will have an important role in the upcoming series.

As one of the first interactive television shows, The Tara Diaries allows viewers to participate in the series. Fans can vote online at *CMT.ca* to help Oram make career decisions.

Fans can also submit songs they have written. The top five will be chosen by Oram's record label to appear on her upcoming album.

"It's important to me that I have the fans choose things and I want them to be a part of this because they've been a part of my life for so long," said the Newfoundland native.

While already being compared to other Idol leaders, including Carrie Underwood, for her strong voice and down-to-earth attitude, Oram is determined to prove she is different.

"It's hard to distinguish yourself differently from other artists because I'm blond, I sing country music, and I came from the Idol background. But I think once people get to listen to my music and get to know me as a person, I'm not Carrie Underwood, I'm not Kellie Pickler, I'm Tara Oram."

Oram's first single from her upcoming album is called Fly Girl.

Premiere

The Tara Diaries premieres on Sunday, July 20, at 9 p.m. on CMT.

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Singer's bad reaction

Rock star David Lee Roth suffered a medical emergency while visiting the small Ontario town of Oakland, south of Brantford. Police pulled over a rented vehicle for speeding. Roth, the driver, was suffering an allergic reaction to nuts. Paramedics arrived soon after. METRO

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Series traces murky start of Iraq War

Early days may be hard to watch given what we now know

The narrative of war on Generation Kill unfolds as an exercise in readiness and restless waiting, along with misdirection from higher-ups.

As a chronicle of modern warfare, the seven-part HBO drama seems awfully authentic. How viewers will embrace this painstaking portrait of a war on which many already feel overdosed — well, that's another story. (It premieres in Canada Sunday at 9 p.m. EDT on The Movie Network.)

The first episode begins in the northern desert of Kuwait at the staging ground where U.S. Marines of the elite First Reconnaissance Battalion prepare to invade Iraq. Headed for Baghdad, they are meant to serve as the "tip of the spear" in the early weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This isn't the ideal mission for a hand-picked, highly trained group of warriors.

"Rolling through Iraq in open-top Humvees is completely outside of what First Recon does," declares Lt.-Col. Stephen "Godfather" Ferrando. "But the general has asked this battalion to be America's Shock Troops, and Godfather can't tell the general we don't do windows."

As the Marines wait for orders to set off on their perilous, murkily justified road trip, there is plenty going on there in camp. An unauthorized espresso machine explodes in one of the tents. A distressing rumour makes the rounds that, back home, J.Lo has died.

THE DARK KNIGHT
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Marines in First Recons Bravo Company give a wary welcome to Evan "Scribe" Wright (played by Lee Tergesen), an embedded reporter from Rolling Stone magazine. He will turn his account into the 2004 book on which this series is based.

David Simon and Ed Burns, who executive produced and (with Wright) co-wrote Generation Kill, were also the team behind HBO's series The Wire.

There are many differences between those two projects, of course.

The Wire, which recently finished its five-season run, was a fictitious drama set in Baltimore. But it skillfully depicted local institutions (government, law enforcement, the world of journalism) saddled by bureaucracy and shortsightedness.

Like The Wire, Generation Kill takes an exhaustive look at a flawed institution.

Before they even leave camp, these young men begin to have suspicions military leadership didn't fully think things through; that the institution isn't giving them sufficient support. They inquire about the missing maps. They patch together their rattletrap Humvees.

"It's for viewers now to make of it what they will."
Director Susanna White

Underway, they are ordered to turn loose rather than hold for questioning possible members of an Iraqi death squad. Farther on, they are told to abandon needy refugees attempting to surrender.

Watching that first stretch, some viewers of Generation Kill will feel the burden of what they've learned ever since.

After five years and counting, the viewer may feel hard-pressed to watch, and judge, this series on its own terms.

Does it matter?

"It's for viewers now to make of it what they will," says director Susanna White.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lenny fires manager
Lenny Kravitz was so PO'd manager Guy Oseary was getting fellow clients Madonna and A-Rod entangled in their current mess, he fired him. TMZ.COM

Great Big Sea rock the boat

Hawksley Workman produces, Russell Crowe pitches in on band's latest album

IAN NATHANSON
music@metronews.ca

The two sides couldn't be any more different: Great Big Sea, a 15-years-strong mainstream East Coast act blending Newfoundland folklore and melodic pop-rock, bringing aboard Ontario-based indie wunderkind Hawksley Workman to produce their latest disc, Fortune's Favour.

Talk about a challenge. "We were spending weeks circling each other trying to make this collaboration work," GBS multi-instrumentalist/singer Bob Hallett tells Metro. "Once we figured it out, (Hawksley) was able to take advantage of our eclecticness and our desire for quality. And we could focus on his creativity."

Great Big Sea's eighth studio effort finds Hallett and his singer/multi-instrumentalist cohorts Alan Doyle and Sean McCann teaming up with Workman to emphasize all things "big": Big on the production work, big on the emotional flair. Even big on the rock: Not as in the nickname of the trio's home province, but as in upping the amps to 11 for the punk-driven Straight To Hell and Oh Yeah.

Though Hallett played in punk rock bands before joining GBS, credit for the aforementioned two cuts, shockingly, goes to Doyle.

"Back in high school, the bands I used to play in did a lot of hard rock and heavy metal," Doyle says. "I loved the attitude. In the case of Oh Yeah, I always wanted to do a song that could be played in hockey rinks, and had to have bodychecks written into the song. So I went home that night and put together the four dumbest power chords I could play on guitar and some shout of emotional joy."

WARNER MUSIC CANADA PHOTO

Great Big Sea's Sean McCann, left, Alan Doyle and Bob Hallett have a new album, Fortune's Favour.

Certainly joy could be felt during the recording of Company Of Fools, Doyle's co-write with Oscar-winning actor Russell Crowe, whose now-defunct rock group 30 Odd Foot Of Grunts once covered Great Big Sea songs. Crowe met Doyle while filming 2005's Cinderella Man and the friendship resulted in Doyle producing the actor-singer's solo outing, My Hand, My Heart, that same year.

GBS even felt a tinge of the celebrity life when Crowe joined the band onstage this past St. Patrick's Day in Washington, D.C. "All of a sudden, out of nowhere, this big force of paparazzi showed up," Hallett says. "Very surreal, but very funny."

Not to say the group isn't celebrated in the same way in its home country, where GBS are multi-platinum sellers, multi-East Coast Music Award winners, nine-time Juno nominees and a top concert draw.

And being hockey fans, it's surprising GBS hasn't been approached by the CBC to compose a new Hockey Night In Canada theme.

"We once did submit a song for a segment of Hockey Night In Canada called Play The Game," Doyle says.

"Who knows what happened to that?"

in concert

Great Big Sea plug its latest effort, Fortune's Favour, at the Molson Amphitheatre on Saturday night, with Joel Plaskett Emergency opening.

France's Carla Bruni-Sarkozy says first wives should keep working

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, wife of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, says the wives of political leaders shouldn't feel they have to give up their jobs.

The supermodel-turned-singer, who has an album coming out next week, says in a radio interview that she never considered halting her singing career when she became France's first lady in February.

Bruno-Sarkozy says her decision to continue her singing career should not be considered strange since many women now continue their careers despite marrying men in high-level positions.

Still, France's first lady says her current status means she will not give concerts for her forthcoming album and the royalties will go charity.

Meanwhile, the Italian-born Bruni-Sarkozy says she has taken her husband's nationality.

She says she recently became a naturalized Frenchwoman and is awaiting her French passport.

In the interview, the 40-year-old former single mother also told France-Inter that she plays "no political role" in France.

She described the emotional and creative evolution of Comme si de rien n'etait (As If Nothing Had Happened), a collection of folk- and blues-inspired songs featuring her strumming guitar and crooning in her breathy, cracked voice.

The songs developed "a bit before, a bit during, a bit after" her whirlwind romance with Nicolas Sarkozy, which began when they met at a dinner in November, she said. Each song comes to her "as a kind of miracle," she said.

The record is gaining extra attention because it is her first since her marriage. She made two albums before; like those, the new one will be released under her pre-wedding name, Carla Bruni.

Speaking of one song, L'Amoureuse (Woman In Love), she said she had the idea first a year ago. "But would I have finished it if I hadn't allen in love?"

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Supermodel-turned-singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

musical inspiration

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy's music tastes run the gamut: From The Clash to Dolly Parton, Bessie Smith and the Beatles. Her husband, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, favours more standard, and more French, fare she said, including George Brassens and Jacques Brel.

Television comeback

Michael J. Fox, left, is about to make a TV comeback, according to one E! Online blogger. Kristin Dos Santos reports that Fox is in talks to reprise his role on ABC's Scrubs as Dr. Kevin Casey, who he last played in two episodes in 2004. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Smithsonian museum puts crystal skull on display

Some mysteries are such fun you almost don't want to know the truth. That may help explain why people are fascinated with crystal skulls.

Happy to share the spotlight with the latest Indiana Jones movie, the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History is putting its crystal skull on display starting today.

"People like to believe in something greater than themselves," Smithsonian anthropologist Jane MacLaren Walsh said, and crystal skulls are mysterious and beautiful.

The skulls "are a fascinating example of artifacts that have made their way into museums with no scientific evidence to prove their rumoured pre-Columbian origins," she added.

Crystals carved into the shape of a human skull fed the 19th century's need for drama and mystery and its fascination with death. They were supposed to be the creation of ancient Mesoamericans — Aztecs, Mixtecs, Toltecs, perhaps Maya. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contest closes July 14, 2008. Must be Canadian residents, 13 years & older and a Facebook member. Go to Rogers Show Off Your Summer Facebook page for full rules or to vote for a photo mosaic & enter. Limit of 1 vote per photo mosaic per Facebook account day. One trip for 2 to the Pemberton Festival in BC valued at $7,500 based on a Nfld. departure. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. TM Trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc., used under license or of Rogers Wireless. All other brand names are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Rogers Wireless.

Ready for stardom

Black Kids front man discusses the funk/pop group's rise

A party-starting pulp of indie, pop and funk has helped American band Black Kids become one of the hottest new groups around.

With echoes of 1980s stars like Prince, The Cure and The Human League, their debut album Partie Traumatic has just come out in the U.K.

They have also won over live crowds and scored a U.K. hit with their single I'm Not Gonna Teach Your Boyfriend How To Dance With You.

Singer Reggie Youngblood discusses his band's rise and explains why he is ready to be a pop star.

PHOTOS BY JIM DYSON/GETTY IMAGES

Reggie Youngblood, above, and Ali Youngblood, right, of Black Kids perform during England's Glastonbury Festival. The pop/funk band recently released its debut album Partie Traumatic.

Q Things have happened very quickly for you — have you managed to cling onto the roller-coaster of fame?

A If this had happened to me when I was 20 or 21, I think I would have been in over my head. But I'm 27 now and I've had several years to daydream about this. It feels kind of natural now. It feels like I'm experiencing one of my daydreams.

Q When you were daydreaming, what were you doing in real life?

A It consisted of several cubicles and many a conversation on the phone with disgruntled customers. I worked for a security company in a monitoring centre.

Q Does the reality live up to your daydreams?

A The thing is I'm probably a lot milder than I was when I constantly had my head in the clouds. Much more tame than I was a few years back. I don't want to go out, I just want to read my book.

Q It seems like a lot of your songs are about romantic insecurity and inferiority.

A Yeah, it's a fairly universal emotion of feeling inadequate in romantic situations. I think nine out of 10 people have experienced it — the jealousy, the impotence ... not physical impotence, just feeling powerless in a situation.

But on the other hand, there are a couple of songs on there that explore the other side, where you have the advantage in the relationship, where you possess the power.

To me, it's fun to switch back and forth. It's quite often what you experience in real life — one day you feel like a complete victim and the next day you're causing someone else to suffer.

Q Are you more rock or more pop?

A There are some very rockist tendencies on the album and we do tend to have our heavy moments, but the pop tends to outweigh the rock when it's all said and done.

I'm fine with the description of being cheesy pop — there are so many cheesy pop songs I love and adore. I guess I don't think of them as cheesy, I just think of them as wonderful.

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Guitar gods at Afrofest
Alpha YaYa Diallo and Doura Barry will play the main stage Sunday at 8:20 p.m.
The guitarists will also appear at the Baobab stage Saturday at 3:30 p.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Art at all hours: Festival returns

Recycled plastic waterfalls, parking-lot oil 'drilling' and Yoko Ono on tap for overnight event

RICK MCINNIS
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The popular art festival Nuit Blanche will return to downtown in October after a one-year hiatus.

The return of Nuit Blanche, the all-night outdoor art festival launched in 2006, was announced at an early morning media conference yesterday presided over by Toronto Mayor David Miller, downtown Coun. Kyle Rae and Ontario Culture Minister Aileen Carroll.

The event returns for the third year with the sponsorship of Scotiabank, commencing on the evening of Oct. 4 and continuing into the morning of the 5th with spectacular art installations all over the city's downtown.

The event will be divided into three zones in close proximity to each other. Zone A will stretch from Queen Street in the south to Charles in the north on either side of Yonge and University, while Zone B will focus on the Distillery District and Zone C will encompass neighbourhoods in and around Liberty Village.

RICK MCINNIS/FOR METRO TORONTO

Toronto Mayor David Miller announces the third annual Scotiabank Nuit Blanche all-night art event yesterday at a media conference at the University of Toronto.

In addition to huge public installations and performances on city streets, squares, parks and vacant lots, there will be a variety of independent projects in venues such as the AGO, the Bata Shoe Museum, Casa Loma, Ryerson University, U of T and dozens of other galleries and public and private buildings.

Among the scenes you can expect to see is a fake waterfall made of recycled plastic cascading down the front of the Ontario power generation building on University Avenue, to a real waterfall pouring from a window in a former prison chapel at the heart of Liberty Village.

People walking through Dundas Square will be picked out by a spotlight and given a moment of celebrity, an artist will "drill" for oil among the gasoline slicks in a parking lot, and Yoko Ono will present two events as part of her Imagine Peace installation.

"I think we were surprised with the public response in 2006," Miller told Metro after the media launch. "We knew it would be a good thing, but it was extraordinary — people came out in droves, and it was pouring rain.

"Nuit Blanche is advertised as a free, all-night contemporary art thing, and what it taught me is that Torontonians are way ahead of their governments and business leaders.

"They appreciate the arts, they want to have fun, they're creative, they're interested, and when you can provide something that is right in their neighbourhoods, they will come out and support it massively."

"Torontonians are way ahead of their governments and business leaders. They appreciate the arts."
Toronto Mayor David Miller

Sleep later!

Nuit Blanche is scheduled to begin the evening of Oct. 4 and continue into the morning of the 5th. It's a free event.

Thanks, bro: Madonna's sibling says singer has one love – herself

BOOKS A memoir by Madonna's brother says the singer really does love her husband, director Guy Ritchie but, apparently, not as much as she loves her career and herself.

"I hope that it is Kabbalah's lesson that she is not the centre of the universe," Christopher Ciccone writes in Life With My Sister Madonna, scheduled to come out next Tuesday but purchased in advance by The Associated Press.

The 342-page book, published by Simon Spotlight Entertainment, arrives at a time when Madonna has been linked to the breakup of the marriage between New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez and his wife, Cynthia Rodriguez, who filed for divorce Monday.

Madonna issued a statement Sunday saying that she has "nothing to do with the state of his marriage or what spiritual path he may choose to study," apparently referring to reports that the singer had introduced the ballplayer to Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism.

Madonna

According to her brother, she and Ritchie love each other, despite rumours that they are splitting up. He believes they are "passionately committed" to staying married, with the help of Kabbalah.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And ... action! Actors ratify new contract

Members of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists have ratified a new contract with Hollywood studios that boosts payments for actors whose work appears on the Internet, the union said.

AFTRA said 62.4 per cent of voting members approved the three-year deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

"Today's vote reflects the ability of AFTRA members to recognize a solid contract when they see it," AFTRA president Roberta Reardon said in a statement.

The vote came after fierce opposition by the rival Screen Actors Guild, the last major Hollywood union still negotiating with the studios for a new three-year contract. SAG contended a separate deal with AFTRA would dilute its clout at the bargaining table.

SAG represents 120,000 actors in movies, TV and other media. The TV and radio federation has 70,000 members including actors, singers, announcers and journalists. SAG and AFTRA share 44,000 dual members.

The contracts of both unions expired June 30, but both agreed with the studios to keep working under the old terms to avoid a shutdown of the entertainment industry.

Reardon said the vote was unusual because of the "unprecedented disinformation campaign aimed at interfering with our ratification process," and she blamed SAG for politically motivated attacks.

Reardon called on the two warring actors unions to discuss a merger in the months to come.

SAG national president Alan Rosenberg asserted in a statement that AFTRA appealed to its non-acting broadcast members to pass the agreement covering acting jobs.

A-list actors weighed in on the dispute.

Tom Hanks, Alec Baldwin and others joined hundreds of actors in signing an online petition urging actors to ratify the AFTRA pact.

Jack Nicholson, Viggo Mortensen and Holly Hunter endorsed a SAG ad calling for AFTRA to return to the negotiating table to get a better deal. George Clooney called the infighting counterproductive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Today's vote reflects the ability of AFTRA members to recognize a solid contract."
AFTRA President Roberta Reardon

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TODAY IS A GOOD DAY TO SURPRISE A FRIEND...
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Lara Logan, right, the chief foreign affairs correspondent for CBS News, tells The Washington Post she is pregnant, and the father is a married federal contractor whom she met while stationed in Iraq. Logan's relationship with Joseph Burkett has made media headlines, including the front page of the New York Post. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spike set to film 'Passing Strange'

FILM Spike Lee will film Passing Strange, Stew's rock musical journey of self-discovery, during performances next week at Broadway's Belasco Theatre, it was announced yesterday. The movie, budgeted at about $2 million, will be shot July 19 at both the matinee and evening performances, Steve Klein, the film's producer, said Wednesday at a news conference. The stage production will also be filmed at two other times in the theatre without audiences present.

"Musicians are the greatest artists on this Earth," said Lee, a big fan of the musical since seeing it at the Public Theater last year. "What we are really doing is really a hybrid. We are filming the play."

Lee, director of such films as Do the Right Thing, Malcolm X and She's Gotta Have It, said there would be surprises in the film but declined to amplify. "Then it wouldn't be a surprise," he said.

Stew was born Mark Stewart, but uses just the name Stew.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first death rattle of TV as we know it?

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

SMALL SCREEN GETS SMALLER: It probably won't change the fact that his shows are about as funny as swimsuit chafing, but Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane is launching his latest animated venture online this fall, with a series of 50 2-minute episodes of Seth MacFarlane's Cavalcade Of Cartoon Comedy, according to a Hollywood Reporter story.

What perplexes the Reporter is that MacFarlane's show will be hitting the Internet through a deal he's made with Google, mere months after the May deal he made with Fox for US$100 million.

Fox, you see, owns MySpace, and while the social networking site might not be as big as Google, it's surprising that the Rupert Murdoch's network would let a potentially lucrative online venture slip through their fingers in negotiations.

"Either MacFarlane's reps wanted to add too many zeroes to the deal to attach an Internet component," the Reporter story speculated, "or Fox didn't feel there were enough zeroes in ad revenue from such a deal to care. The latter seems much less likely."

MacFarlane can't write a non-gag-based joke to save his life, but his lawyers are obviously real monsters if they could protect the Google deal — which has apparently been in the works for a year — from Fox's legal team during negotiations. In any case, it seems that it was MacFarlane who had the leverage when Fox came to talk money, not the other way around.

There are no details on the Google webisodes — who cares, really? — except that they probably won't involve any characters from Family Guy or American Dad, given intellectual property restrictions inherent in any deal MacFarlane signed with Fox.

What's really interesting is MacFarlane is obviously sure that going online with a new show is going to be more lucrative in the long run than putting it on primetime.

What's really interesting is that MacFarlane is obviously sure that going online with a new show is going to be more lucrative in the long run than putting it out on primetime.

That sound you heard is the rumble of a tectonic shift in the way business is being done in Hollywood, and perhaps even the first audible death rattle of the broadcast model, long overdue.

FILE UNDER 'DUH': A new Nielsen study reports that people are spending more time watching video content on either their TV or computer screen, according to a New York Times story.

I'm sure most of you are wondering how much Nielsen spent reaching that earth-shattering news, which ranks up there with "gas is expensive" and "pizza is awesome" in terms of revelations.

"The average American spent 127 hours of time with TV in May," reported the Times, "up from 121 hours in May 2007; and 26 hours on the Internet, up from 24 hours last year.

More than 282 million people watch television in a given month and nearly 162 million use the Internet."

Hearing definitively that computers and mobile devices are measurable mediums for TV watching will probably have reverberations for advertisers, and prompt some flop sweat in network executive offices, but once again, there's nothing here that violates either common sense or historical inevitability.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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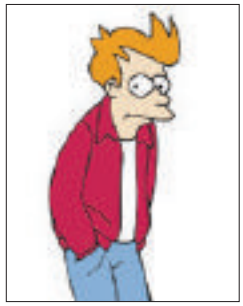
	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 7/10/08	265	353	2	TVO	Racetrack Tech		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Family Man		Vienna 1900		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Last Comic Standing (N)				Swingtown (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Who Do-Think	jPod (DVS)		My Life-Movie	My Life-Movie	CBC News: The National		Stampede
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Supernatural (HDTV)		Hopkins (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Jeopardy! (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		So You Think You Can Dance		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	218	345	11	CH	The Insider (N)	E! News	Greatest American Dog		Will Smith: Hollywd Story		Charlize Theron: True Story		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Frontières	Esprit	Esprit	Lacombe Lucien ★★★ (1974, Drame) Pierre Blaise.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	That Old Feeling ★★ (1997, Romance-Comedy)				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Greatest American Dog		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Swingtown (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Last Comic Standing		Last Comic Standing (N)				News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Grey's Anatomy		Hopkins (HDTV) (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Private Practice		Grey's Anatomy		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		So You Think You Can Dance		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Windsors-Royal		Olga: The Last Grand Duchess		Maria Callas-Living		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Gemini"		Supernatural (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (N)		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	News (N)	Our World	The Hour (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		The Suze Orman Show		Kudlow & Company		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	CFL Football Calgary Stampeders at Montreal Alouettes. (HDTV) (Live)						CFL Football: Argonauts at Eskimos		
	411	457	58	OLN	Departures		Cycling Tour de France Stage 6. From Aigurande to Super-Besse, France. (N)						Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Pontiac Test	NASCAR Racing	Sprint Cup -- LifeLock.com 400 Qualifying.			Low Life	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993, Action)		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Open House	Save Us-House	House
	570	580	29	MM	Instant Star	Born to Be	Muchmusic Countdown			Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens Top 10.	
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Slow Burn"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48		Crime 360
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Movie				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Bon Jovi: One Last Wild Night				Celebracadabra		Listed
	575	583	38	CMT	(6) Ultimate "Canadian"		Beyond Chance		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated (N)
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis "The Source"		Intelligence		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	Secret Diary	Secret Diary	House
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	In the Mind ...	The Man in the Iron Mask ★★ (1998, Adventure) Leonardo DiCaprio.					Bravonews	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	The Biggest Loser		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Pop Life"		Clash of Warriors		Battlefield Detectives		NCIS "Pop Life"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Tom Green	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Junk Brothers	The Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Air Force One ★★★ (1997, Suspense) Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman.					Frasier	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	The Boot	Black Carpet	Baldwin Hills	Leprechaun: Back 2 tha Hood ★ (2003, Horror)				The Boot
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		The Lost Room "The Eye and the Prime Object"				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Screen	Cribs	4REAL	Next	The Real World		True Life (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Inside Hollywood		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		May-December	Keeping Up	Oscar and Lucinda ★★★ (1997, Romance) Ralph Fiennes, Ciarán Hinds.				
	621	527	63	STR	eTalk: Katie	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Katie & Peter: Next Chapter		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	The Wiggles	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Un Chef de rayon explosif (1963, Comédie)			Héros "Le Remède"		TVA 22 heures	Juste pour rire	Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		Diamond Girl (1998, Romance) Joely Collins, Kevin Otto.				Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	The Brothers Solomon ★ (2007, Comedy) Will Arnett.				December Boys ★★ (2007, Drama) Daniel Radcliffe.				Puffball
	305	612	306	PIX	(6:45) Silverado ★★★ (1985, Western) Kevin Kline.				Bad Boys ★★★ (1995, Action) Martin Lawrence.				Taken ★

critics' corner

Futurama

Lots of shows do valentine-themed stories, but you won't find any others like "Put Your Head on My Shoulder." Fry starts getting cozy with Amy, but is fearful when she responds in kind. He finds excuses why they shouldn't get that close that fast — but then a related accident puts his head on her body, resulting in major closeness. 8:30 PM on YTV 9:30 PM on TEL



Greatest American Dog

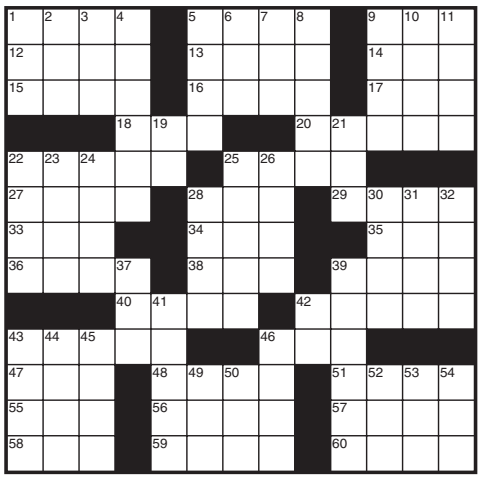
Tyra Banks would probably object if this new series were called "America's Next Top Dog." But that's its premise: a competition for canines in which they and their owners live together and undergo a series of challenges, with a $250,000 prize awaiting the winner. The premiere introduces the 12 dogs, who range from a perky Pomeranian to a giant schnauzer, and their owners, an equally diverse bunch. 8 PM on CBS CH

42 entertainment

Ali's no Miley

Fourteen-year-old Ali Lohan says the sound of her upcoming album is different from fellow teen star Miley Cyrus: "She's really good," Ali tells People Magazine. "But I have different music than her. It's a different vibe. Mine is more hip-hop. Kind of like Rihanna." METRO

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Dolphin habitats
5 Make bye-bye
9 Talk to a beat
12 "Moneytalks" group
13 Cyrus' realm, today
14 "Evil Woman" rockers
15 Exude moisture
16 Loud noises
17 Old-time pitcher — Maglie
18 Born
20 Get rid of knots
22 Damp
25 Tearful request
27 A Baldwin
28 Eur. country
29 Golf stroke
33 Sturm — Drang
34 Burrow
35 Might
36 Whip
38 Brown of big bands
39 Boot jingler
40 Sporty trucks
42 Sauce with basil
43 Not now
46 Go for the gold
47 Fishtail
48 Elegant coiffure
51 Pocket change
55 Frat letter
56 Gizzard
57 Revise
58 Superman's monogram
59 Untold centuries
60 Computer input

Crossword down

1 — Paulo
2 Kind of system
3 Carpentry tool
4 Picturesque
5 Boundless
6 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
7 FedEx truck
8 Follow upon
9 Balance
10 Kirghiz range
11 Fishing gear
19 Mag exec
21 Fabric surface
22 Tow
23 Bone below the elbow
24 Some T-shirts
25 Gets nosy
26 Lower limbs
28 Like some fears
30 Refs
31 Tight as a drum
32 Rookie
37 Shade of a color
39 Removed the pits
41 Cease-fire
42 Geometry term
43 Homer's instrument
44 Sighs of relief
45 Deuces
46 Commitments
49 Major leaguer
50 Marino or Rowan
52 Snake River loc.
53 Engineering sch.
54 Incoming-plane stat

previous day's answer

T	O	T	E		C	A	A	N		L	A	B
W	A	R	M		L	I	R	E		E	Y	E
I	H	O	P		E	M	C	E	E	I	N	G
G	U	T	T	E	R	S		D	H			
			I	L	K		J	E	S	T	E	R
T	U	B	E	S		F	A	D		R	Y	E
A	S	I	S		Y	E	W		V	E	R	A
L	E	D		P	E	W		T	O	Y	E	D
C	R	E	E	L	S		N	I	L			
			I	O		B	U	N	C	H	E	D
M	O	O	N	W	A	L	K		A	I	D	E
A	R	F		E	P	E	E		N	E	I	N
L	E	T		D	E	U	S		O	D	E	S

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This day in history

JULY 10, 988: The City of Dublin is founded on the banks of the river Liffey.

JULY 10, 1212: The most severe of several early fires of London burns most of the city to the ground.

JULY 10, 1913: Death Valley, California hits 134 °F (about 56 °C), which is the highest temperature recorded in the United States.

JULY 10, 1958: In Alaska the highest tsunami wave ever recorded at Lituya Bay, at 524 metres high.

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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Keep your love blazing in spite of tension. Desperate acts will confuse you. Emergency measures must be taken.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Flabbiness calls for action. Vanity interferes with getting what you want. A coworker wants to walk off the job.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Watch out for fire engines. A love interest sparks your mischief. Express respect for an elder's solid values.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Be prepared to come to someone's rescue. Misery loves company, but you may not. You have to demand action from somebody.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Get straight to the point with an authority figure. An older person makes unreasonable demands. Visit a person who has peculiar notions.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Increase your credibility if you wish to avoid shame. Analyze a wild romantic who is destitute. A stupendous bore talks about profits.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Pay attention to someone with a grievance. Travelling will have twists and turns. Sharing expenses will help develop harmony.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
A mystic has enlightenment to distribute. You'll be aware of potent silences. Avoid being cynical about a friend's happiness.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
A goofy guy is a guardian angel. Be empathetic with someone who has failed. A self-induced crisis is looming.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Your patience will be rewarded in due time. Nonsense has some people bothered. Someone just wants to have a fight.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You must improvise in order to fix things. You'll get great bargains. Activity will increase by day's end.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Don't make assumptions or you'll look silly. Have a comfort session with a friend. Menial domestic chores will be too thrilling.

Sudoku

1	5				9	6		
4			7	5				8
					4	3		
		9		7				3
	7						2	
6				4		1		
		6	4					
3				1	5			2
		7	6				5	4

INSTRUCTIONS:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

1	9	7	2	3	8	6	4	5
2	6	4	7	1	5	3	8	9
8	5	3	4	9	6	1	2	7
9	4	8	6	5	7	2	3	1
5	1	6	3	4	2	9	7	8
3	7	2	1	8	9	5	6	4
4	3	9	8	2	1	7	5	6
7	2	5	9	6	4	8	1	3
6	8	1	5	7	3	4	9	2

SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:
Under 13 . . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21 . . . . . Smart
21-25 . . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practicing

Toronto weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
40%			40%	
Showers. 25°	Showers. 11°	Sunny. 27°/17°	Showers. 28°/20°	Variable. 25°/13°

Temperature
Normals
High: 26.3°
Low: 14.3°

Records
High: 36°/1988
Low: 8.9°/1942

Sunrise: 5:47 a.m.
Sunset: 9:00 p.m.
Moonset: 12:20 a.m.
Moonrise: 2:26 p.m.

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More kids for Mel B

Spice Girl star Melanie Brown wants more children with husband Stephen Belafonte — and may have 11 more if he gets his way. "We plan to have some more kids," she says. "He says he wants 12 or 13." METRO

Celebrity Buzz

Jolie pics were fake

SPECIAL WINDOWS Don't expect to catch any glimpses of Angelina Jolie in her hospital room.

The hospital in Nice, France, where Jolie, 33, is staying as she awaits the birth of her twins has coated the windows of her room with special insulating material that cameras cannot see through, various news sources report. The news comes after several photographs — allegedly of Jolie and Brad Pitt — have surfaced.

"It is impossible to see into Mr. Brad Pitt and Mrs. Angelina Jolie's room," a rep for the Fondation Lenval hospital said in a statement. "So any pictures released are either posed fakes set up by paparazzi or they are pictures of other patients. We hope this is clearly understood out of respect for all patients in this clinic."

This week, Pitt was spotted arriving at the hospital, where he visited Jolie, who is staying in a four-room suite overlooking the Mediterranean.

Pitt has been a frequent visitor, bringing the couple's daughters, Shiloh, 2, and Zahara, 3, along. On Saturday the actress' brother James Haven also visited.

Jolie is undergoing observation and is expected to give birth anytime "in the next weeks," her obstetrician said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Amy in more fisticuffs

PUB ATTACK As the sentencing of her husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, nears, Amy Winehouse has been accused of lashing out at a stranger — for the third time in two weeks, various media outlets report.

In the most recent altercation, she reportedly punched a fellow drinker at Camden's Dublin Castle pub in what was claimed was an unprovoked attack.

"She was in front of me at the bar and suddenly turned and walloped me three times across the face," Wayne Lindsay, 29, told Britain's Daily Mirror. "I couldn't believe it. I hadn't said a word to her or touched her."

A source close to the singer tells *People.com* that Winehouse merely reacted because someone grabbed her from behind — and that her security then stepped in.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fan saves Pearl Jam photos

LOST AND FOUND A Pearl Jam fan came to the rescue of frontman Eddie Vedder in New York last week after the rocker's girlfriend left a camera phone full of personal photos on the back seat of a cab, *imdb.com* reports . The devotee was quick to return the item when Vedder called it. He was rewarded well by the rocker. METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Mayer 'hooked up' with a fan

NAMELESS John Mayer might be keeping mum about his current steamy relationship with Jennifer Aniston, but the soulful singer opened up recently night about a past relationship — with a nameless fan, *people.com* reports. During an intimate performance at the Z100 Lounge at New York City's Spotlight Live nightclub for radio station Z100, Mayer was asked by a concert-goer if he had ever "hooked up" with a fan from a performance. Mayer responded, "Do you respect my honesty? Yes, I have."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cook fights dog poop eviction

CLEANUP Comedian Dane Cook is relying on a jury to clear him of allegations that the star allows his pet dog to defecate on the land surrounding his Los Angeles home, *IMDB.com* reports. The Good Luck Chuck star is facing eviction from the West Hollywood apartment after allegedly ignoring three warnings from the building's owner about his chihuahua's dog poop.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Barrymore's denial

CLAIMS Actress Drew Barrymore has denied claims she withheld news of her split from boyfriend Justin Long from People Magazine because it published unflattering pictures of her, *imdb.com* reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No tattoos: Kilmer

INK Val Kilmer was put off ever getting a tattoo by the thought of wearing the same dirty T-shirt forever, a comparison a colleague of his made when Kilmer was only 14 years old. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Seneca

PROMISING FUTURES AWAIT YOUNG FINANCIAL ADVISORS

All 14 students of the inaugural Financial Services Practitioner program found jobs when they graduated this spring, and that comes as no surprise to Program Co-ordinator Sam Albanese.

"When you look around at advisors these days, you see bald and grey," says Sam. "The industry is hungry to replace planners who are retiring and to attract younger clients."

Last year, Seneca partnered with Canada's leading insurance and mutual fund companies to create the first program of its kind to teach financial advisors.

Jennifer Ekin decided to enrol in the program and pursue a career as a financial advisor because she knew her chances of finding a job were good.

Even before she graduated, she was offered a job as a financial advisor at RBC Insurance.

"What's great about the program is when you graduate you come out already licensed to sell life insurance and mutual funds," she says. "That's a big advantage in terms of your marketability to potential employers."

Sam says an important part of the program's training is co-op because it gives students an insider's look into how the industry actually runs.

"Through co-op you actually get to do the job, while you are still in school. Over the course of two semesters everything the students learn in the classroom they get to practice before they graduate."

With an industry hungry to replace planners who are retiring, Sam expects demand for his future graduates to continue.

For more information on the Financial Services Practitioner program visit: www.senecac.on.ca/cfs/students/outlines/fsp.htm

APOTEX AND SENECA, PARTNERS IN TRAINING

Irina Lapshina, a third-year student in the Chemical Laboratory Technology – Pharmaceutical program, recently received a small dose of what the future may hold for her after completing a four-month co-op placement where she assisted a team of chemists who are responsible for testing antibiotic products.

The 33-year-old is just one of the many students from the School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry to benefit from an ongoing partnership between Seneca and Apotex Inc., the largest Canadian-owned pharmaceutical company.

Since the early 90's, Apotex has been a strong supporter of the College and its training in the fields of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry.

In addition to accepting co-op students, the pharmaceutical company has provided Seneca advice on program development, donated lab equipment, established a scholarship and hired graduates from the School of Biological Sciences and Applied Chemistry.

Seneca and Apotex first started collaborating more than a decade ago when the Faculty of Continuing Education offered on-site training for Apotex employees through the Industrial Pharmaceutical Technology program.

"This community partnership is an amazing story," says Ron Davidson, Vice-President Human Resources for Apotex. "It is a great example of how business and a leading educational institution can work together in a fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship."

For more information on the Chemical Laboratory Technology – Pharmaceutical program visit: www.senecac.on.ca/fulltime/CLP.html

A DEGREE ABOVE

It's been six years since Seneca started offering degrees, and the college's graduates are proving to be in high demand.

In 2006, Seneca's Financial Services Management students were the first graduates of an Ontario college degree program, and all 10 students were successful in finding employment in the financial services sector.

"The Financial Services Management degree allowed me to get the designations that I wouldn't have received in a university business program," says Millicent Lynch, now an Analyst, ABM Cash Management at BMO, Bank of Montreal. "I learned skills that prepared me for a career in banking. It's exactly the program I was looking for."

It was a similar situation for Andrew Smith, who was in the first graduating class of the Software Development program.

Before he finished his last semester of studies, Andrew was offered a job as an open source programmer with Mozilla, one of the world's most popular web-based software development companies.

"I came to Seneca because I wanted the best education in the field," says Andrew. "Through the degree program, I received foundational knowledge of programming in the first couple of years and after that I went on to work on applied projects."

Seneca became the first college in Ontario to offer a degree program in 2002. The college now offers degrees in Environmental Site Remediation, Software Development, Flight, Child Development, Control Systems Technology, Human Resources Strategy and Technology, International Accounting and Finance, Municipal and Corporate Administration and Informatics and Security.

For more information on Seneca's degrees visit: www.senecac.on.ca/cms/student/bachelordegree.jsp

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